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Ontario

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

No. 17

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)



Second Session, Thirty-Second Parliament
Monday, April 5, 1982

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Monday, April 5, 1982

The House met at 2:02 p.m.

Prayers.

AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, I would like to correct the record, if I may.

In last Thursday afternoon's debate, the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. Walker) stated: "When the Oshawa plant layoffs finally take effect, when that second shift ultimately takes effect, there will be some 5,000 people who will be eliminated from jobs. This is very disturbing, although I have to say that while the figures have reached these proportions, they are substantially below the 11,700 people we had laid off in the automobile industry in July 1980."

Research from the United Auto Workers union over the weekend indicates that the minister's facts were a little out of whack. I want to read into the record the statement that the United Auto Workers union figures show that as of mid-January there were 18,000 workers from the auto assembly and auto parts sector on indefinite layoff. Once General Motors layoffs take place in Oshawa the total will be close to 20,000. The above figures do not include 9,000 workers who have disappeared from official statistics because they have lost recall rights and are no longer classed as laid off.

I know the minister would not want to mislead the House. Perhaps he just forgot about those people.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, it is as Minister of Education that I rise at this point.

The general legislative grants regulation for 1982 was sent to all school boards today. The regulation will enable school boards to finalize their budgets for 1982. The regulation includes changes to the funding of continuing education which will be in effect from September 1982 and will achieve compatibility in continuing education funding for the universities, colleges and school boards.

I intend to release a draft policy statement on continuing education shortly, which will outline

the role of the ministries of Education and Colleges and Universities in the field of continuing education. In February of 1981, we released a paper entitled Continuing Education: The Third System, and between February and September adult educators, administrators, trustees and other interested individuals and groups responded to the paper through briefs and letters.

The draft policy statement which will be released will reflect the views expressed in the responses to that paper as well as consultation with other ministries of government involved in continuing education and the priorities within the limits of the financial resources available for education.

Through the general legislative grants regulation for 1982, the Ministry of Education will continue to fund the heritage languages program, driver education programs, credit courses and adult basic education programs. The latter group includes education in adult basic literacy and numeracy, citizenship and language instruction for landed immigrants, and English as a second language for adults. I believe there is a need to strengthen and extend programs in the area of adult basic education and that school boards have the major responsibility in ensuring these needs are met.

In addition, a per pupil amount will be made available to school boards to assist in the provision of programs not mentioned above, to reflect the cost of cultural and recreational programs developed co-operatively with community groups such as folk arts councils and to help offset the cost to school boards of making their school facilities available to community groups. The per pupil amount for 1982 for the September to December period will be \$2 elementary and \$6 secondary and will be multiplied by all the resident-internal day pupils of the board.

There will be no direct provincial funding from the Ministry of Education for general interest activities effective September 1982. It is anticipated that other community groups will provide these cultural and recreational programs, or that school boards will provide the programs on a cost recovery basis or bear the cost locally through the local mill rate.

Continuing education makes a significant contribution to Ontario's social and economic development. Educational institutions, community groups, employers, trade unions and government agencies provide a wide range of programs and services. Within the Ontario government, in addition to the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, a number of ministries are involved with the provision of continuing education.

The Ministry of Citizenship and Culture and the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation both have a particular role in the provision of recreational and cultural learning opportunities. Through full consultation and co-ordination on the part of all the ministries concerned, we will ensure that Ontario remains a rich learning environment containing many opportunities for lifetime learning.

ORAL QUESTIONS

BILD PROGRAM

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the chairman of the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development (Mr. F. S. Miller), perhaps I will direct a question to the vice-chairman, if I may.

Is the vice-chairman aware that in the recent pre-budget submission to the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller), the Ontario Chamber of Commerce said it was "somewhat skeptical about the need for some of the BILD projects that have been initiated." Given that the chamber of commerce is the largest and most representative business association in the province, and given the fact it is casting aspersions on his program, especially when we are experiencing extreme economic difficulties in this province, is the vice-chairman prepared to admit that his program is perhaps a failure in terms of attracting business support?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Peterson: Is the vice-chairman aware that the Ontario Economic Council says the BILD program needs "rationalization on economic efficiency grounds"? I am sure the vice-chairman is aware that means they do not feel the province is getting what it is paying for. Given this, what steps is he going to take to make this program more acceptable to some of these organizations, so they will at least understand what he is doing, and to justify this expenditure of taxpayers' money?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: If the honourable member followed the BILD program and the

different projects, I am sure he would see it has been a complete success.

2:10 p.m.

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, speaking of successful programs, how would the minister categorize the election promise in the BILD program about moving the stockyards, on which he subsequently had a study and decided to wash out? Is that the nature of the kind of success he has achieved?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, if the honourable member has read the BILD program, if he read the Premier's (Mr. Davis) speech, he would see it was a study on the possibility of moving the stockyards. We completed the study, and I am sure the member is well aware of what the study suggested.

Mr. Peterson: Let me try again, if I may. The minister is aware that the chairman of Leigh Instruments Ltd. of Ottawa said the financial commitment of \$750 million over five years for BILD is only nine tenths of one per cent of the provincial budget, and this commitment to industrial restructuring is "not of heroic proportions." The minister realizes that he earns more revenue from lottery proceeds than he spends on BILD in one year. Does he believe this money, this appropriation, is seriously going to go towards restructuring the economy of this province?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Again I say to the Leader of the Opposition that if he would look at the BILD projects, if he would go out in the communities and see the good they have done, he would not question them. He would be really happy.

Mr. Peterson: That is in the face of overwhelming evidence to the contrary. However, I have learned never to ask the minister another question about the BILD program. I am sorry I did in the first place.

Mr. Nixon: I was impressed that he knew he was vice-chairman.

Mr. Peterson: I actually thought we were going to catch him up on that.

HYDRO EXPORTS

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, may I ask a question of the Minister of the Environment? When we asked him on March 18 about the Ontario Hydro-General Public Utilities electrical energy export contract he said: "... we will be giving full and thorough consideration to all environmental aspects of the project and will

impose whatever measures may be indicated in order to ensure . . . that if the project is approved any export of power pursuant to such a contract would be a clean export and would not have any significant impact on the Ontario environment."

I would like to ask the minister if the GPU contract is approved by the National Energy Board and the federal cabinet without conditions, would he state unequivocally what conditions he will impose on Ontario Hydro to minimize the effects of acid rain?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I certainly would do that at the appropriate time. I think it is premature at this stage.

Mr. Peterson: Why is it premature at this stage that the minister would be involved, particularly since he has conveniently decided to opt himself and his ministry out of all discussions on that question? Would he now commit himself to a public hearing, at least, so it will not be decided in private, or in camera, between him and his cronies?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Me and my cronies? I am not sure how inclusive that term is. Maybe I should ask the member to define it.

The reason I view the question as premature, or at least any answer that I might give at this point to be premature, is because the very matter is something which is under close examination at present. To ask me to state unequivocally, or whatever the wording of the member's question was, as to what any conditions might be, would be premature until that examination is complete.

Mr. Charlton: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that there are a fairly substantial number of citizens' groups in this province that are concerned about that particular proposal, and all of those groups have been writing to him, myself and others expressing the concern they have about their inability to have effective input into the NEB hearings, is the minister prepared to ensure that those groups end up with some forum where their environmental concerns can be publicly aired?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I can think of some groups who might be expressing the concern that was reflected in the member's question, although I find it rather difficult to accept that some of the groups saying that really mean it when they made no effort, or chose not to participate in the NEB hearings. I think it has been alleged by them that it was some means of protest. If one is going to protest by not

participating in any hearing, that is not something I can correct.

Mr. Peterson: Obviously a major part of the environmental process—even enshrined in the government's own legislation—is to have an open hearing so all groups can participate in the decision. Why will the minister not at least commit himself to an open public hearing of this? Who mugged him in the corridors of power before he was able to make his decision?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I have not heretofore been, and I do not expect hereafter to be, mugged in the corridors of power.

An hon. member: It happens a lot of times and you do not know it.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Is that right?

USE OF STRIKEBREAKERS

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Solicitor General. Early this morning, my leader released some documents pertaining to Securicor Investigation and Security Ltd. I believe the Solicitor General has been supplied with a copy of that documentation. It raises profound questions about invasion of privacy and individual civil liberties. It also raises serious questions about the legality of some of Securicor's practices.

Is the Solicitor General prepared to order a public inquiry, with full power of subpoena, into the activities of this company?

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, the Ontario Provincial Police has had an ongoing investigation as to some activities of Securicor. That investigation is not yet complete. When it has been completed, if there are any situations that prove charges or licence suspensions should be made, then they will take place.

Mr. Martel: Does the minister not believe that some of the practices followed by Securicor—such as undercover probes where an investigator poses as a regular client employee, or entering into an employee's residence to verify necessary information, or reporting daily on an undercover basis on plant morale and union activities—actually necessitate an inquiry which would compel witnesses to come and documents to be presented? Does the minister not agree that we simply cannot tolerate a company conducting itself in this manner?

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Some of the wording and content in the literature put out by Securicor does offend me. I feel it offends some of our civil rights. Should that prove so, the licensing aspect of that operation will be considered for suspen-

sion. If there is evidence the activities of Securicor do offend and transgress some of the criminal laws in the province, I am sure the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) and the crown attorneys will be submitting charges to proceed against that corporation.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, a couple of weeks after the OPP investigation was known to the Steelworkers, the union itself still had not been contacted by the police. The Solicitor General must be aware the OPP investigation into Automotive Hardware Ltd. is just a narrow individual investigation into one specific case. Why is the minister not prepared to investigate, by way of public inquiry, the activities of this company in many other labour disputes and to determine the legitimacy of its activities?

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I do not think a public inquiry is warranted at this time. I have, however, asked the Ontario Provincial Police to extend its investigation. I feel the strikes Securicor has been involved with have been ones of a more contentious nature with a little more lively activity on the picket line than is warranted. I have asked the OPP to direct the investigation along that line.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Labour. The minister will recall that last Monday I raised the question of Wilco Canada Inc. and the failure of the ministry to prosecute. On Tuesday, I raised the question of Rothsay Concentrates Co. Ltd. and again—to my knowledge at least—the minister has not laid charges.

2:20 p.m.

Today I want to ask the minister another question about a failure to prosecute a company. In this instance the minister is fully aware of the details of the Inco IPC plant in Sudbury, where on December 9, 1981, four employees were threatened with the loss of their jobs because they invoked section 23 of the act.

When the minister knows full well that section 24 of the act has been violated and the workers have been intimidated, why is he not prepared to prosecute that company?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, that matter is still under advisement and study at this time.

Mr. Martel: I am glad it is under advisement. The minister will recall that he stated in a letter to me, dated March 18, "It is the conclusion of the mining health and safety branch that the company did threaten the four workers with

disciplinary action on December 9, 1981, for what the company felt was a refusal to do assigned work."

Having conducted the investigation and determined that workers' rights have been violated, why is the minister trying to leave it up to the workers to lay the charge rather than the minister responsible bringing down the power of that act against Inco?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I am not trying to leave it up to the workers. The very concerns that were raised in the letter from the member for Sudbury East caused me to continue the investigation after I had responded to his letter.

Mr. Martel: I find the minister's answer strange, in view of the fact he states in his letter to me, "Each complainant will be instructed that he may, under subsection 24(2) of our Act, pursue this matter further if he wishes to do so." That is the minister's letter saying it is up to the employees. Is the minister going to prosecute or not?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I can only repeat what I said before. The nature of the letter from the member for Sudbury East caused me to have second thoughts on the whole matter and that is the reason I have been looking into it further.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of Labour has the answer to a question asked previously.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, last week the member for Sudbury East asked a series of questions concerning an accident which occurred at Rothsay Concentrates Ltd. I have looked into this matter and I want to briefly set out a list of events in this ministry's involvement to date.

On January 19, 1982, an employee was injured while cleaning out a machine in a feather pit area. The ministry was notified of this accident and also advised that the joint health and safety committee at the plant had identified the cause of the accident. On the basis of this information, the ministry official involved concluded that an examination of the work area could await the routine inspection which had been scheduled for the following week.

I personally believe the prudent course would have been for the accident to be investigated immediately and I have so advised my officials. In any event, the inspection took place January 26 in the presence of members of the joint health and safety committee. Particular attention was paid to the area in which the accident happened. The inspector reviewed the equipment's lockout procedure with the committee. I

am informed there was agreement that the machine could continue to operate.

However, around midnight on January 27, the ministry inspector was informed of a refusal to work at the plant and he proceeded immediately to the site. The refusal related to a certain employee's belief that the feather pit machine was unsafe. Following an assessment of the situation, the inspector ordered the machine out of service.

In his remarks the other day the member referred to 72 orders being issued against the company. Last Friday, April 2, the ministry conducted a follow-up inspection, which was actually a second and third follow-up inspection. I understand that all but one order issued January 26, 1982, have been complied with. The one outstanding order will be complied with by April 14.

Mr. Martel: Can I ask the minister if he could verify if the inspector, the production manager and plant manager threatened the employee refusing to work on the second occasion with an illegal work stoppage; whether the company sent false information regarding the claim that it had fixed up all these items at the beginning of March; and, finally, whether the director of operations, Mr. Malta, threatened the union president with dismissal if another work stoppage occurred?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I am not aware of those points.

AIRPORT TAXI SERVICE

Mr. Ruprecht: Mr. Speaker, I have the task of conveying the greetings of the Toronto taxi drivers to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, who is surely aware that there has just been a demonstration outside this Legislature.

When will the minister act to remove the injustice to which Toronto taxi drivers are subjected? They cannot pick up any passengers in Mississauga, or for that matter any other part of the municipality outside Toronto, or at the airport.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, some time ago we had discussions with the cab owners' associations of Metro Toronto and Mississauga. Over the last period of time, we have been reviewing with a number of outside groups ways in which we might resolve the difficulty or the impasse that appears to exist between those two organizations in relation to the cab facilities being operated at the Toronto International Airport.

The member for Parkdale is fully aware of the fact that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has been reviewing this situation. Indeed, we had a brief some months ago from Mississauga, and we have asked for further clarification from that community in relation to the brief.

Secondly, we have set up a series of meetings; these meetings will include people from the international airport authority to try to get their views on ways in which they might assist in the difficulties. We will be meeting the authorities in the Metropolitan Toronto Licensing Commission and their political people. We will be meeting members from Mississauga council and the licensing people there. We have clearly indicated to the cab operators and owners that we will meet with them in due course. They have all been made aware of the actual scheduling of these meetings. We hope we will find some degree of flexibility with all these parties that might bring some solution to the problem.

Mr. Ruprecht: The president of the association is in the gallery and heard the minister. I have a letter in which the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Mr. Wells) made a promise to the taxi association, and that promise is very clear; namely, to write legislation this spring to overcome these injustices. The question is simple: how long will the taxi drivers' association have to wait simply to get some justice from this government?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: I said very clearly in a letter to the cab operators and to the municipal politicians, both in Metro and Mississauga, that the ministry will work to try to find some solution to the problem. As soon as we have concluded the meetings, we will hope to find a positive answer. I do not intend to be brought into the debate today other than to say that when the meetings are concluded, I hope we will find some answer to the situation. I am not trying to prejudice them at this point.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, this is not a new problem; it has been dragging on for several years. Why is it that some cab company with one cab hundreds of miles from here can have an operating authority out of that airport, while cabs that are legitimately operating in the Mississauga-Peel-Toronto area have trouble getting that kind of authority?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the member for Etobicoke will recall very clearly that this issue started about 1978 in trying to

resolve a problem of the federal authority. Let us keep it very clear; we are on federal—

An hon. member: We knew you would get around to that sooner or later.

Mr. Bradley: Blame the feds.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, the airport happens to be on federally owned land and is directed by a federal authority. The honourable member will recall that back about 1978, through an offer of help from the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow), the Ontario Highway Transport Board tried to resolve the problem. The board issued 300 licences on a first-come, first-served basis; they were not allocated by municipality or percentage of rides and so on—which might have been a mistake. The fact is, that is the way it was dealt with back in 1978 by the Ontario Highway Transport Board, and I guess it has caused some degree of confusion or complication since then. We would like to find an answer.

2:30 p.m.

These grand displays are not going to resolve the problem. We have established the dates for these meetings and we have said very clearly that we would like to find some solution. I am not offering any encouragement at this time, one way or the other, other than to say that I do seek the support of the federal agency, which will have a part to play in this program or whatever solution we find to it. Indeed, we will have to find some degree of support from Metro and Mississauga as well as the private owners to find a workable solution.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Is this a supplementary?

Hon. Mr. Snow: A point of order.

Mr. Speaker: A point of order?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Or a point of privilege, whatever; I want to clarify one matter. I do not usually disagree with my friend and colleague the minister, but neither the Minister of Transportation and Communications nor the Ontario Highway Transport Board issued the 300-odd licences. The 300-odd licences were issued by the federal Department of Transport.

Our involvement as a ministry was that we met and we worked with the federal Minister of Transport at that time in dealing with this problem. It was agreed that the services of the Ontario Highway Transport Board would be made available to hold hearings into applica-

tions for licences. The licences would then be issued by the federal Department of Transport as airport operating licences to operate taxis to pick up passengers at the airport as well as dealing with the limousines that pick up passengers at the airport. But it was the federal Department of Transport which issued the licences; the Ontario Highway Transport Board held the hearings and issued certificates for more cars than the federal Department of Transport licensed. They made the decision as to who got the cars.

Mr. Cassidy: The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing doesn't know what he is talking about, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: With all respect, that was for clarification purposes to correct a statement the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing had made. Rather than enter into a debate, I will recognize the member for Windsor-Riverside.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier in the absence of the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller).

The Premier must be aware that over the weekend the press has reported that 120 workers were laid off at Fahramet Ltd. in Orillia; that Algoma Steel in Sault Ste. Marie is intending to temporarily shut down its steelworks, affecting about 4,000 workers over and above the 1,500 who have already been laid off; and that 155 jobs at Sunflight have disappeared, as have 150 jobs at SCM in Scarborough, 98 jobs at Biltmore in Guelph, 34 jobs at Gates in Brantford, 21 jobs at GSW in Fergus, 90 jobs at Inco, 250 more jobs at General Motors and 70 at T. G. Gale Ltd. in Oshawa. That is in one weekend.

What is this government going to do to start creating jobs in this province and, specifically, is this government prepared to introduce a community adjustment fund to assist communities like Brantford that have been hard hit by layoffs to get direct payments to workers who are on layoff as well as to restructure the local economies to create jobs?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, that is a rather long question that would normally involve a lengthy answer, but I will suggest to the honourable member that the Treasurer has answered a similar question prior to this, as have I. The Treasurer indicated that he is contemplating, within his budget, certain things.

I also wish to seize the occasion to remind the member of the many positive things this gov-

ernment has done with respect to the economic situation. I will not go through the list of the companies that the member referred to, but I think several of them referred once again to the auto sector—not all of them but several.

Mr. Cooke: Very few.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Well, several. The member uses the word “several” depending on just how it fits the circumstances. For him, several is more than one—

Mr. Peterson: You don’t do that, do you?

Hon. Mr. Davis: No, never. I say to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson), unlike himself, never.

Mr. Speaker: Never mind the interjections, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: He interjected something about fund-raising at the Liberal district meeting over the weekend, and I think that is what he was referring to. I made note of those remarks. It reminded me of just how contradictory they are to some things he said a week ago.

As they relate to the auto sector, we have had an occasion to discuss those issues. We had some discussions with Algoma; their situation relates partly to the international marketplace and partly to the uncertain conditions in western Canada, as the potential of one or two of the megaprojects is still up in the air, as well as the economic situation that generally prevails in North America, western Europe and many other situations.

It is fair to say that more than almost any other jurisdiction I can enumerate—and if there are some doing a better job with respect to economic activity, I will be delighted to have suggestions—with great respect, I think this government not only recognizes the economic difficulty but also, in those areas where we can achieve something, we have or are in the process of doing so.

Mr. Cooke: I might point out to the Premier that this province imports \$3.3 billion worth of industrial machinery, \$1.5 billion worth of office machinery and \$1.3 billion worth of communications equipment, among many other imports. Why does this government not get serious about import replacement? These imports would represent 50,000 jobs in Ontario.

There are ways of creating jobs in Ontario. Why does the Premier not show leadership through an industrial strategy, rather than using a political strategy called the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development, and create jobs for the people of Ontario in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure where the honourable member has been, but I challenge him to show me a jurisdiction in North America that has taken more leadership or initiative in terms of import replacement than this province, in terms of government procurement policy, in terms of advertising campaigns, in terms of forums—

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Certainly; health care products, the minister reminds me. I could go through the litany. The member will also find that in the current state of the economy the figures he has read as they relate to the latter part of 1981 and 1982 just will not hold up.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the Premier can indicate what the province is doing for those workers in industries like the automotive industry who are not likely to be able to go back to their former jobs because the technology in that industry will have to change if Ontario and Canada are going to be competitive.

What is Ontario doing for those workers in terms of innovative retraining programs for the new technology that will be required, for which jobs very likely will be available in the next year or two?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I would think the honourable member, more than most, would understand the answer to that question.

First, perhaps I am more optimistic than he is as to the numbers of people who are or were in the auto industry returning to the auto industry. There is no question that there will be some structural changes. No one argues that; no one disagrees with it. At the same time, when that industry regains its normal health, it will require a substantial number of employees. We all look forward to the day when the economy alters, when interest rates in the United States decline and when market conditions improve as they ultimately will.

As it relates to people who, because of technological change, are going to have some difficulty adjusting, whether in the auto sector or in any other sector, it is fair to state that the high-technology centres, the programs conducted by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, and particularly our community college system, and some but not all of the initiatives of the government of Canada, will put us in the forefront with respect to manpower training.

I do not know what the member means by the term “innovative.” I am not nearly as expert in the educational field as he purports to be, but I

do not think it is a question of innovation per se; it is a question of getting the people who can relate to the particular programs in the colleges or wherever, encouraging them to participate in these programs and getting some better definition from the industrial community as to what its manpower requirements are going to be six months, a year, two years down the road. One of the difficulties of any education system, as the member well knows in his academic expertise, is to acquire the knowledge that gives the educational community some definitive information as to exactly the kinds of people or the skills that will be required two or three years down the road.

2:40 p.m.

DIOXIN IN FISH

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment.

Dioxin is in the same megapoisson category as botulism and shellfish toxin and, with up to 2,130 pounds in dump sites used in 1960 by Hooker Chemicals, there is enough within leaching range of Lake Ontario and the Niagara River to wipe out nearly all of the population in the world.

The minister is no doubt aware that the dioxin data now released by him since last July have indicated an increasing trend in the water of the Niagara River. Given the seriousness of this trend and the known existence of dioxin in the Hyde Park dump, can he explain why his ministry has merely monitored dioxin data and trends in fish in the Niagara River and Lake Ontario, while citizens' groups such as Pollution Probe, Operation Clean and the Canadian Environmental Law Association have had to defend the environmental rights of Ontarians by participating in court hearings and questioning the remedial cleanup program of the world's largest dioxin dump? Where has the minister been while they were fighting his battle?

Mr. Haggerty: Las Vegas.

Hon. Mr. Norton: That is one place I have never been, I can assure the member.

Mr. Speaker, without being able on the spot to confirm all of the preamble to the honourable member's question, for the purpose of answering the question I will at least accept it on the face of it in terms of the specific figures.

Yes, we have detected in this specific series of tests an increase in the level of dioxin in certain fish. I think it is also important to bear in mind that this is not necessarily viewed by the

scientists as meaning a temporal increase, in other words, a longer-term increase over and above prior existing levels. In fact, there is still evidence that would indicate the level of dioxin in fish in the lake is probably considerably lower than it was a few years ago.

That does not change the import of the member's question, but I think it is important to bear in mind that the results of these tests are not inconsistent with a longer-term trend towards decline.

As to the suggestion that we have been inactive, I think it is important that the member give some credit for the role we have taken; perhaps not the specific role he would recommend but nevertheless an active role in communication with our American colleagues on this subject, not only during my tenure but also during the tenure of my predecessors.

We have also assisted financially the efforts of Ontario environmental parties that are interested and have taken an active role; more active in an interventionist sense on one specific occasion than we have.

It is also important that he bear in mind that, since late fall, we have embarked on a considerably more aggressive policy with regard to the Niagara River, which policy manifests itself in the establishment of a special group of scientists and technically expert individuals and the retaining of lawyers in the United States to represent our ministry in interventions on the American side in relation to permits that will be coming up for review in the relatively near future.

We have filed an intervention on the matter of the Niagara Falls, New York, waste water treatment plant, which is a major source of contamination on the American side. Through that intervention, we have requested a hearing. There may be others who have requested a hearing in this instance, I do not know, but to the best of my knowledge we were the first and may still be the only ones.

That is a course of action that I have indicated we will continue to pursue. We view the whole matter of the contamination of that river, or in some cases the potential contamination from the dump sites on the American side, as a very serious matter and we are pursuing it aggressively.

Mr. Speaker: May I have the co-operation of all the members in limiting their private conversations, please?

Mr. Kerrio: Is the minister aware of the fact that Mr. Al Johnston, one of his dioxin experts,

has told us that it is fine to do monitoring and look at trends but that we must make sure all actions are taken to remove the dioxin input?

Does the minister not agree that Mr. Johnston's stated concern about removing dioxin input completely contradicts his ministry's lack of action in the past? Why has the minister not taken Mr. Johnston's advice? What specific action will he be taking to ensure that the dioxin sources on the US side do not continue to leach towards the river?

Given the fact that the Premier (Mr. Davis) himself, through support for the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, is talking about containing and purifying the water for the Third World, I wonder whether the Premier and the deputy minister who is concerning himself with the Niagara River are going to put some pressure on the minister to get moving to protect the waterways of Ontario for all the people of Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: There were three supplementaries there; you may answer one.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I will try to ignore the latter part. I thought the member was going to ask me if I thought the Premier was going to put pressure on me to clean up the Third World as well.

I think a fair construction of Mr. Johnston's remarks would be that he is speaking in support of the present policy of the ministry. If the member had taken the trouble to listen to my statement in the House on Thursday or even subsequently to read it over or have his researcher take a look at it, he would see that, among other things, I announced we would be retaining a hydrogeologist for the express purpose of addressing the specific hydrogeological characteristics of those sites we are aware of in the United States; to examine those in detail, along with the other technical staff who are associated with the Niagara River work group; to prepare proposals; and to prepare for interventions on any of the dump sites that may be a source of leaching into the Niagara River.

Although our indications are that the Hyde Park site is perhaps the most persistent source, there is a likelihood on the basis of our evidence that there may be at least a couple of other sources farther down the river.

Mr. Kennedy: Mr. Speaker, as I understand the situation, some of the delay in remedial action is due to litigation in the US courts. Will the minister confirm that this is so and explain

the degree to which this impacts on remedial measures?

In the minister's discussions and correspondence with the American agencies, the Environmental Protection Agency, New York state and so on, will he urge them to set aside any litigation, get on with the job of cleanup, presumably without prejudice in our legal terminology at least, and settle any court actions afterwards? Certainly the urgency is to get on with the job of cleanup.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, it is true that the particularities of the American system are such that it does lend itself to considerable delays. The fact that almost any decision in the United States is subject to review and appeal in the courts has on occasion resulted in extended periods of review during which there has been relatively little action.

I am not sure that any suggestion from me or anyone else that the litigation be set aside would be very fruitful, because it is inherently a part of the American concept that almost any decision by government should be subject to review in the courts to ensure that the rights of any individual are not being abrogated. I can assure the member that we will not leave any stone unturned in our efforts to press the American jurisdictions involved to proceed forthwith.

2:50 p.m.

I think it is encouraging that the state of New York has now indicated on a number of occasions a growing concern and a willingness to proceed as quickly as possible. There are some indications that additional funds will be allocated, and Governor Carey has indicated a tightening up of standards which would make New York state standards even tighter than those of the Environmental Protection Agency. If he is prepared to follow through with that, it would mean a very significant step forward in the best interests of the people of New York and Ontario.

INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER LAYOFFS

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Labour, although I suspect it could very well be directed at many of the Tory ministers.

Is the minister aware that within the last half hour the International Harvester company in Hamilton has announced to the union that as of May 31 more than 1,200 of the remaining less than 1,400 workers will be laid off until at least

late in October? Does the minister have some answers for these workers?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, that is very sad news indeed. This is the first indication I have had of it.

Mr. Mackenzie: If that is the first indication the minister has had of it, where is the Tory cabinet when it comes to what is happening to our industry in Ontario? Given the babbling we heard about our record at job creation from the Premier just a few moments ago, can the minister give us something specific to offer these workers?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: To clarify the record: This is the first indication I have had of the circumstances that happened this afternoon; it is not the first indication I have had of the difficulties being experienced not only by this plant but also by many other plants across this province.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry and Trade. The minister will now be aware of the program of the government of Quebec to subsidize industry in that province by paying pay up to \$3,500 per worker for as many as 15,000 unemployed youths. Given the urgent need for job creation in Ontario, particularly for youth, does the minister in conjunction with his cabinet colleagues have any plans for a similar program here in Ontario through his ministry?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, the throne speech which was read to this House on March 9 indicated in excess of 30 job creation programs; many of them were related to youth. That stands as this government's intention in a general way for the future. When the budget ultimately comes down in due course, it will delineate specific programs.

Mr. Sweeney: The minister may be aware of the fact that the specific target of this program is the problem of "no experience, no job" for young people. Does the minister, again in conjunction with his cabinet colleagues and through his ministry, have any specific programs to deal with this problem, which is being experienced by many jurisdictions in this country and, I presume, in other countries? A sister province is dealing with it in a very particular way. Does this minister have any programs similar to this?

Hon. Mr. Walker: The honourable member well knows that thousands of Ontario youth have had the benefit of this kind of experience

as provided through the government programs that are already established. I think to be suggesting that the invention of the wheel is about to occur is the wrong thing for the member to be doing.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, is the minister aware that unemployment among youth in this province has increased over the past year, from 13.1 per cent to 15.5 per cent? What is he doing to provide permanent employment for the youth coming out of schools, community colleges and universities in this province—permanent jobs, not just Experience jobs in the summer? Are we not facing a situation where a generation of kids will not have jobs? What is he going to do about the social problems we will face if that occurs?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member well realizes that youth employment counselling centres are already in place all across this province. That is one way we are helping. The other way is through the various programs this government has had relative to it.

It is recognized that there is a higher degree of unemployment amongst our young people. That is natural; it is to be assumed that it is going to happen. It is regrettable in times like this, and all of us are very concerned, but we have programs in place that have attempted to alleviate, and indeed have significantly alleviated, the problem across the province. It would have been worse without them.

The counselling centres will provide immense value. In addition, there are a number of programs, as I indicated to the previous questioner, which have been indicated in the throne speech but which have yet to be articulated. They will be announced in due course, the normal way being in the budget that will come down.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) with a new question.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. A point of privilege.

GRANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. O'Neil: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of personal privilege which I believe interferes with the rights of many of the members on the opposition side.

I wish to bring a matter to your attention or to ask for some comments concerning it from the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. It has to do with several news releases that have

been released by the minister pertaining to the neighbourhood improvement program.

It has come to our attention that many of these news releases have been released by the minister on behalf of his own members on that side. If I might give an example, "Howard Sheppard, MPP Northumberland, announces a \$250,000 grant under ONIP"—

Interjections.

Mr. O'Neil: In that case I will cut this list short. But all of the Conservative members—

Some hon. members: Read them all.

Mr. O'Neil: Do the members want me to do them all? For the member for Hastings-Peterborough (Mr. Pollock), there is a small one, and a few others underneath that.

Interjections.

Mr. O'Neil: I notice, however, that the minister does it himself when he is announcing the grants for the opposition ridings. The member for Perth (Mr. Edighoffer) is very capable of making his own announcement, but the minister announces a \$200,000 grant. In the riding of the member for Grey (Mr. McKessock), there is a \$200,000 grant, plus another \$200,000 grant in the case of the riding of the member for Victoria-Haliburton (Mr. Eakins).

All of these grants are announced by the minister himself and I wonder why. I think it is an abuse of the minister's privileges that he should be announcing those grants in the opposition ridings but that when it comes to his own members' ridings he allows them to make their own announcements. I would like to have that corrected and to have a comment from the minister.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, having listened to the opposition members, I would not want to embarrass them by asking them to carry the responsibility for a government program which quite often they do not agree with.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Apparently there have been some questions raised in the New Democratic Party. We heard a point of privilege from the member for Quinte (Mr. O'Neil), which obviously evoked the need for a reply from the minister. Otherwise, he had no point of privilege.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, I have yet to hear you say that was a point of privilege, which is a matter you might debate a bit.

Mr. Speaker: No, it really was not.

Mr. O'Neil: Mr. Speaker, on a further point of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: Is this a new point of privilege?

Mr. O'Neil: No, it is not; it is the same point of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: That was not a point of privilege.

Mr. O'Neil: I wonder whether I can ask the Speaker where it does lie. In other words, who would look into something like this, where a minister and the government are abusing—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

UREA FORMALDEHYDE FOAM INSULATION

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health. Has the minister examined the evidence on which the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission banned the use of urea formaldehyde foam in the United States? Also, has he studied Bruce Small's report on Chemical Susceptibility and Urea Formaldehyde Foam Insulation, which was commissioned by the National Research Council; or the report by Dr. Albert Nantel, head of the toxicology department of Laval university, who said that UFFI gas is a trigger agent for many other illnesses? If so, he will be aware of the mounting evidence of the serious and prolonged nature of the UFFI health problems, particularly the sensitizing of individuals to chemical allergies.

3 p.m.

In view of this additional rather alarming evidence, what steps does he propose to take to discharge the responsibility he has under the Public Health Act to ensure that the condition of any premises is not injurious to health?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, with the indulgence of the House, I wonder if I could interrupt.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Is it about northwestern Ontario?

Mr. Speaker: Do we have the concurrence of the House to revert to statements by the ministry?

Agreed.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

WORLD CURLING CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORY

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, this not only refers to northwestern Ontario, but it refers to a

sport in which I have participated marginally for a number of years. I have to say how encouraging it is, knowing my propensity for supporting teams that do not always succeed, whose names will not be mentioned, to be able to welcome into your gallery, Mr. Speaker, the gentlemen from Thunder Bay who yesterday, not too many hours ago, won the world curling championship. I would like to introduce them by name, then I have one or two observations to make. We have the skip of the rink, Mr. Al Hackner, with Mr. Lang, Mr. Nicol and Mr. Kennedy.

[Applause]

Hon. Mr. Davis: I should point out that this same rink won the Canadian curling championships in Brandon, Manitoba, not too many weeks ago. I am surprised the skip of the rink is here this afternoon looking so healthy because, as I understood the television reports yesterday, he was going for a late evening swim in some icy lake somewhere not too far distant from his hotel.

Incidentally, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson) might borrow some of his lines. He had a great line about the lead and the second. He suggested to them they did not have to concentrate or worry too much because their contributions to their victory would not be recorded on national television, because they would be taking place during a commercial break. I do not know whether that was true or not, Mr. Hackner, but that is what I heard you say.

I was watching on Saturday as well, Mr. Speaker, and I was getting a little nervous because the satellite transmission was interrupted on several occasions but, none the less, we did get most of that one as well. I want to congratulate all the rink, Mr. Speaker, but particularly the skip. Having led—that is the first one, for those who do not curl—for some years, it was encouraging to me to find a skip who, on the last stone, could throw the lead weight in order to win the championship. I congratulate you, Mr. Skip, because the skips I used to curl with could never throw the draw weight as well as I could as their lead. I am only teasing but it is partly true.

I know I speak for the member for Fort William (Mr. Hennessy), who I believe is at home in his constituency, awaiting your arrival with open arms at the international airport in Thunder Bay. I know he will be there to welcome the team, and I know he would wish me to express his congratulations on this occasion.

Curling is one of the great sports of this province, and of this country. It is one that involves not only a great skill, but a lot of friendship and relationship. One cannot go to a bonspiel without understanding the kind of relationships that develop. We were very fortunate in the rink we had representing this country. It is a great pleasure not only to welcome them here but to congratulate them and to wish them well next year and the year after. They all look so young. I am sure they will be there for many years to come.

[Applause]

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I was not going to rise but I now feel obliged to. These gentlemen who are visiting us today have spent most of their time practising their curling, not trying to understand political speeches. They probably have no idea of what the Premier just said. I would like to translate for the Premier, if I may, and just say on behalf of my colleagues on this side of the House that we are very proud of you. You have brought great credit to yourselves, to our province and to our country, and we congratulate you.

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Speaker, I would like to join the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in welcoming home the rink that captured the Silver Broom and brought it back to Canada. It is further proof the most important resources we have in northern Ontario are our human resources.

I wish Al Hackner and his rink well when they are curling with Miss Jones later on in eastern Canada. I want to remind honourable members of this House that two of the four members of this rink, namely, Al Hackner and Bruce Kennedy, are railroaders. Al is a railroader and Bruce is an engineer with Canadian National Railways. Only a railroader could have drawn to the button on the final stone to bring the Silver Broom back to Canada. On behalf of this party, we are very proud of you, not only as good ambassadors from Canada but excellent ambassadors from northwestern Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: Quite obviously, this is one of the very few moments when all members of the House agree. I would like to extend my personal congratulations as well.

We will add six minutes to question period. The clock was stopped? We will not add anything then. We will hear the question from the member for Welland-Thorold once more.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, that second inter-

ruption was a very appropriate one. I extend my congratulations as well.

ORAL QUESTIONS

(concluded)

UREA FORMALDEHYDE FOAM INSULATION

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, I will repeat the question to the Minister of Health somewhat more briefly. Has he looked at the evidence on which the United States banned the urea formaldehyde foam insulation? Has he looked at Bruce Small's report on Chemical Susceptibility and Urea Formaldehyde Insulation which was commissioned by the National Research Council?

Has he looked at the report by Dr. Albert Nantel of Laval university, who is head of the toxicology department there, who says UFFI gas is a triggering agent for many other illnesses? If so, he will be aware of the mounting evidence of the seriousness of urea formaldehyde foam insulation, particularly in the sensitizing of individuals to chemical allergies. In view of this rather alarming additional evidence—and it is new—in the last couple of months, what steps does he propose to take to discharge his responsibilities? Would he, under the Public Health Act, ensure the conditions of premises are not injurious to health?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, our responsibilities have been fully discharged. I will express the member's concerns to those who are now responsible, that is, the federal government.

Mr. Swart: May I remind the minister of two things. First, there is some evidence under a basic document of the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission. Under the heading of "Risk of Chronic Injury" there is this comment:

"The risk assessment estimates that up to 150 people may develop cancer among a population of 1.75 million persons exposed to formaldehyde in residences that have been insulated with UF foam insulation from 1975 to 1980.

"The risk assessment also estimates that up to 23 people could develop cancer from installations of the product in the next year."

Bruce Small's report states, "Their exposure may have given them unsuspected allergic-like reactions to the new insulation and may also cause violent reactions if they are exposed to even small amounts of formaldehyde gas in the future." Mr. Small went on to say, "The

magnitude of the problem is completely unknown."

How can the minister explain his attitude of doing nothing in view of the responsibility he has under the Public Health Act for the premises in this province? Is he prepared to take at least the minimum measures that Quebec has taken to fund those people who have to move because of their severe health problems?

3:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: In spite of the fact the member believes he has mounting evidence, that does not change the clear fact that the federal government is totally and fully responsible for this matter.

Mr. Swart: You are responsible for health.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: When the member gets a chance to chat with his leader after question period, I am sure his leader will indicate that when he was in federal caucus his party raised this matter with the federal government. I am sure at that time he and his colleagues were making the point that it was a federal responsibility. For once, I happen to agree with the point I am sure he and his colleagues were making in the federal NDP caucus, that the federal government ought to be owning up to their responsibilities and looking after this matter.

Because of the hard work and pressure brought to bear by my predecessor, the member will know the federal government did finally accept some responsibility in this area. They did acknowledge their responsibility and at that time we decided that it would be foolish for us to duplicate their efforts in the area. Therefore, they took over all of the testing procedures and full responsibility as was their proper responsibility in this country. That is where the problem lies.

I am sure the member will relay through his leader or some of his federal colleagues the message that they ought to be carrying his great concern to the national government of this country in the House of Commons.

Mr. Robinson: Mr. Speaker, during the past year the Ministry of Health conducted investigations and surveys of health profiles of thousands of homes in Ontario. Have the results of those individual surveys now been turned over to the federal government and, if so, what commitment or what use will that government make of them?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I can say that all of the information was turned over to the federal government. I can only hope that they meet

their clear obligation to all of the people in every province of this nation, live up to their responsibilities and take the proper action. I am sure the proper pressure will be brought to bear on them by both the Conservative opposition, until it forms the government in Ottawa, and the NDP opposition as well.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Mr. J. A. Reed: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources with regard to the mismanagement of forest resources in the province.

Can the minister tell us how many acres of forest land in Ontario have been both cut over and burned off but have not received any regeneration to date?

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, the member knows full well the details giving that information were provided in last year's estimates and discussed then, and were also filed with the Legislature last October.

Mr. J. A. Reed: If I may refresh the honourable minister's memory, since 1971 the total unregenerated cutover forest is 1.3 million acres and it is growing at the rate of 160,000 acres per year. The forest areas taken out of production by fire during the same period was over 5.9 million acres.

Since the forest management agreements signed with the major pulp and paper companies cover less than 26 per cent of the total crown timber land under licence, what is the government doing to regenerate the backlog of untreated acres? Whatever happened to the government's promise, as stated in the infamous Brampton charter in 1977, to regenerate every acre harvested?

Hon. Mr. Pope: I can sympathize with the honourable member; unfortunately, he has not been critic for this ministry for too long. If he had been, he would have recalled the discussions that took place last fall when we indicated that the area not available for regeneration—

Mr. Breaugh: You've been minister too long.

Hon. Mr. Pope: Instead of yelling, why don't you listen for a change? It would be good for you.

Mr. Speaker: Never mind the interjections.

Hon. Mr. Pope: We indicated that 40 per cent of the land not available for regeneration relates to access. That is precisely the reason we have

our resource road policy and that is not in the FMA area.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

COST OF SERVICES IN BLIND RIVER

Mr. Wildman: I have a point of order, Mr. Speaker, under standing rule 81(d). On March 19, I tabled a question for the Order Paper, question 16, to the Ministry of the Environment. According to the rule, it should have been answered, at least with an interim answer, within two weeks. That would have meant last Friday. As I understand it, no answer has been supplied by the minister and no answer has been tabled. I would like you to look into it, Mr. Speaker, to find out whether the minister will comply with the rule.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I can assure both you and the honourable member that prior to last Friday I signed and submitted that question. I shall have to check to see what happened to it from that point until now. It should have been here by now.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Mr. Nixon: A point of order, Mr. Speaker, since our business has been interrupted: You may recall on Thursday, the member for St. David (Mrs. Scrivener) undertook, on a point of privilege, to introduce some honoured guests in your gallery. Before she had completed her introduction, the member for Rainy River (Mr. T. P. Reid) drew your attention, on a point of order, to the fact that the rules do not accommodate that, particularly using the procedure she chose.

Now today, when the Premier got up and asked for unanimous consent, of course, there was no problem. But I would simply read to you, sir, the recommendation from the Camp commission that was accepted by the Legislature in 1975, as follows, "No announcements of visitors in the galleries in the Legislature will be made with the exception of heads of state, their representatives or distinguished parliamentary guests, as Mr. Speaker may decide, and such introductions should be made by Mr. Speaker." That is the rule we adopted.

As we know, custom permits members on all sides to break the rule, probably even without unanimous consent, unless they choose such an awkward procedure as was used last week by the member for St. David. She got up to make an address to the House, or some sort of a

post-ministerial statement, and when she was drawn to order, she, with her usual good grace, fired off a letter to everyone concerned, including yourself, sir, making what I consider to be unacceptable comments about other members of the House. Since the matter was raised as a point of order on Thursday, and it was not disposed of, and we have had another example today where, by unanimous consent, we did have introductions, I wonder if you would clear it up once and for all so that the member for St. David will not continue to act in such an unacceptable way.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Dealing with the last part first, the member for St. David would like to reply briefly.

Mrs. Scrivener: On a point of personal privilege, Mr. Speaker: As you know, I obtained permission to introduce the men from Spar Aerospace Ltd. to members of this Legislature last Thursday. I wished to place on the record the extent and nature of their great achievement with the Canadarm in the recent tests of the space shuttle Columbia, a world class event of which Canadians are proud.

However, the unfortunate chain of events that occurred at that time meant that the men from Spar left here feeling quite bewildered. In face of that, Mr. Speaker, I felt I had no alternative but to send my personal apologies to Mr. Larry Clarke, the chief executive officer of Spar.

3:20 p.m.

Mr. T. P. Reid: The honourable member has said that she, in fact, did have permission. I would hope that from whom she received permission could be clarified. I would think you are the only one, Mr. Speaker, and I would hope you would comment on that.

I have a copy of the honourable member's letter and I will read one paragraph:

"I am sure you realize that Canadians are proud of Spar's achievement, and that the shameful behaviour of the members of the Liberal and NDP parties yesterday does not reflect the esteem with which you are held by the rest of the nation."

Mr. Speaker, a lot of comments come to mind: cheap shot, chintzy, tasteless and a few others which I will not go into. My point of order was based on the rules that we follow around here. The member rose with the justification that some of the people who work at Spar live in her riding. I suggest to you, sir, that it was really

up to yourself or the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. Walker) to make any such announcement.

I was very proud to watch on television to see what Canadian technology does. I said that when I interrupted the member and it is unfortunate that she has chosen to cheapen that contribution in this Legislature in this way.

Mr. Martel: I have not read the member's letter but that is the sort of response I would anticipate she would make. She thinks she can violate every rule of the House and then dump scorn on those people who say there is a set of rules around here which we live by. I suggest, as I did Thursday, that what she did was set a precedent which Mr. Speaker would have difficulty knocking down, if we were to test it on this side of the House, and that is for a back-bencher to get up and make a statement. That is reserved for the government to do.

When I rose on Thursday, I pointed out and Mr. Speaker accepted, that an introduction is one thing but a major statement is something different. In her usual fashion, the member chose to ignore what had been suggested she might do. The rest of us can take the low road and she will take the high road. If we do not like it, she can write nasty little letters.

She has written: "my deep regrets for this very rude, unpleasant occurrence." If someone created that unpleasant occurrence, Mr. Speaker, I want to suggest that it was the member who violated the rules that led to that. If the Deputy Premier (Mr. Welch) wanted to make that statement, or the minister responsible, that is one thing, but you cannot make new rules as you go along to suit yourself.

With respect to the introduction of guests, Mr. Speaker, I think we tried to sort that out a couple of years ago. You will recall we all used to stand in our places, welcome our schools and welcome—

Mr. Nixon: You kept welcoming the Communist Party.

Mr. Martel: I know the odd person who had to go out and welcome them in certain events that go on and not from this party. I will not even name the group, but the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk knows of what I speak. Does the member want me to say it?

Mr. Nixon: I know what you are talking about.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, we have a rule with respect to introduction. On special occasions, I would say the whole House agrees to that sort of

introduction but if we go back to the old thing of introducing everyone who comes in we are going to spend half an hour of very valuable time introducing everybody from the janitor to the kids, to the school bus driver, right down the line and we will never get it over with.

I would hope that the rules would apply for the member.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much. Just so there will not be any doubt in anybody's mind as to what happened today, we not only had unanimous consent, but we did indeed revert to statements by the ministry, and it was under statements that the Premier made his statement.

Mr. Martel: Maybe you can get her to withdraw that letter.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Sweeney: What about that letter? Nothing happens?

Mr. Speaker: I did not give anybody any permission to write a letter.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Did you give her permission—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Just a minute, we will deal with that.

Just to retrace the events of last Thursday, when the request was made I suggested it would be more properly made by the Minister of Industry and Trade. I was subsequently advised the Minister of Industry and Trade was in transit. He arrived late in the House as the honourable members may remember. Because of the national pride attached to the feat of the equipment which was made by Spar Aerospace Ltd., I gave the member permission to recognize and introduce the people from Spar Aerospace.

I made it very clear that if there were any objections, it would be ruled out of order. I did not see any of the introduction prior to it being made, nor did I have any idea of what the honourable member was going to say. I do want to emphasize it is a feat we can all take pride in, and indeed we should, as Canadians and Ontarians. That was the point, with all respect.

However, it did not turn out quite the way I had envisioned it. It was objected to; it was ruled out of order. In case there is any doubt in anybody's mind, we will adhere to the recommendations which were accepted by all members of this Legislature. I want the honourable members to know that on Friday, following the event of last week, I had to deny another member, on the other side of the House, the opportunity of introducing his guests.

Mr. Martel: On a point of privilege, Mr.

Speaker: I want to go back to this point because of the letter written by the member. The member has said, "that the shameful behaviour of the members of the Liberal and NDP parties yesterday does not reflect the esteem"—she then goes on to say, "Please convey to all of those at Spar associated with the Canadarm my deepest regrets for this very rude and unpleasant occurrence."

We did not do anything but follow the rules of the House. For the member to write a letter—

Hon. Mr. Henderson: But you were rude. Admit the truth.

Mr. Martel: I do not know what was rude or disrespectful or shameful in what we were doing. For that member to be allowed to write that kind of garbage, a total distortion of fact, is unacceptable in this Legislature. I do not think the honourable member should be allowed to impute motives to every member on this side of the House. There is a rule that says one cannot impute motives in this Legislature. That is what she was doing, and she should be forced to withdraw or apologize.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much. This raises a very interesting point but, in actual fact, I do not have control over what members say in letters.

Mr. Martel: But you know she does not have the right to impute motives to members of this House.

Mr. Speaker: In this House. Order.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

NON-UNIONIZED WORKERS PROTECTION ACT

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mr. Newman, first reading of Bill 42, An Act respecting the Rights of Non-Unionized Workers.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill is to provide a low-cost mechanism whereby a non-unionized worker may obtain a review by the Ontario Labour Relations Board where the worker is discharged or otherwise disciplined for cause and the contract of employment is silent on matters of discipline.

3:30 p.m.

At present, a non-unionized worker who is dismissed or otherwise disciplined for cause may have no right of action against his employer, notwithstanding the fact that the discipline, having regard to all the circumstances, is unduly harsh.

The bill provides a two-stage process for reviewing complaints involving harsh discipline. Initially, a labour relations officer would be appointed to effect a settlement which could be reduced to writing and which would have to be complied with according to its terms.

If no settlement is reached, or where a settlement is not likely, the Ontario Labour Relations Board would inquire into the matter. If the board is satisfied the complaint is justified, it will have the power to make an order substituting such penalty as is just and reasonable in the circumstances.

GOOD SAMARITAN ACT

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mr. Newman, first reading of Bill 43, An Act to relieve Persons from Liability in respect of Voluntary Emergency Medical and First Aid Services.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to relieve persons from liability in respect of voluntary emergency first aid assistance or medical services rendered at or near the scene of an accident or other sudden emergency.

LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mr. Newman, first reading of Bill 44, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to provide a mechanism whereby the Lieutenant Governor in Council can order a 60-day suspension of a strike or lockout and order a return to work where the strike or lockout constitutes an immediate and serious danger to life, health or safety, or seriously disrupts the economy of the province in any area of the province.

The bill provides that the Minister of Labour must appoint a conciliation officer where an order suspending a strike or lockout has been made and may subsequently appoint a conciliation board where the efforts of the conciliation officer to effect a collective agreement are unsuccessful.

If conciliation efforts are unsuccessful, the strike or lockout may be resumed without a further strike vote. An order made under the bill would be enforceable as an order of the Supreme Court.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

House in committee of supply.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (concluded)

On vote 2802, college and adult education support program:

The Deputy Chairman: The minister clearly outlined the areas in which moneys are required, so I would ask that members try to limit the debate to subjects that pertain to these estimates.

Mr. Grande: Mr. Chairman, I hope I will be allowed a short time to make some comments in terms of community colleges, as our friend from the Liberal Party did on Friday.

First, I want to say to the minister that the \$5.5 million she is putting into the supplementary estimates is, as far as I am concerned, just a drop in the bucket to do the job that needs to be done.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is in addition to \$109 million.

Mr. Grande: I realize that and perhaps we will begin to ask the questions in terms of that \$5.5 million. What is the federal government's contribution to that \$5.5 million?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Your logic escapes me.

Mr. Grande: That is beside the point. The fact is that the \$5.5 million is totally inadequate to meet the needs of Ontario in terms of skills training. I realize it is on top of the \$109 million, as you put it. However, even that sum is totally and completely inadequate to meet the skill training needs of this province.

I want to say to the minister that a little while back, some time in January, I found out that Sheridan College in Mississauga began a program for which the responsibility is shared between the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and federal manpower. I was asking some questions in terms of whether that money was up-front money, or whether the college has to be able to put that money up front in order to set up the programs and then get the money from the ministry.

As you may be aware, I have been taking a little fact-finding tour of community colleges. I went to visit Northern College, Algonquin College, some of the Metro colleges and I will be going to Fanshawe and St. Clair shortly.

One of the things that is becoming exceed-

ingly clear is that the rate by which these colleges will involve themselves in so-called high-tech courses is dependent on how fast the colleges will be able to get rid of some of the courses they offer now. In other words, in order to move in the direction of high tech, the colleges have to get rid of programs and courses, and as the minister knows, have to fire and get rid of teachers, extend the school year and in short decrease the level of the quality of the education we have been delivering in this province in the last little while.

The minister is saying, "What?" As soon as she hears about the quality of education, somehow she wants to feel that the quality of education in Ontario is safeguarded. Let me tell you some things about the quality of education and then I will let you decide whether it is being safeguarded in community colleges.

When I went to Humber College, I found the students in some of the classes there have to share draughting boards to do their work. Not only that, but they have to sit on the floor to do their draughting work. If that does not say the quality of education is suffering, I will let the minister explain it when she stands up.

3:40 p.m.

I was also told at Humber College that if all the students enrolled at Humber were to come to the school on any given day there would be no place to put them. In other words, they count very much on 10 per cent or eight per cent absenteeism, whatever percentage it is.

You are trying to tell me the quality of education is not suffering. Students last year were enrolled in classes of 25 to 30 students. This coming September they will be in classes of 40 to 50 students because classes have to be doubled as a result of the shortage of provincial funding. Tell me whether the quality of education is suffering.

Then there is the outdated equipment we have right now in most of our colleges. For example, at Centennial College I found out from the students they have a computer that works all right, but the language the computer uses is 10 years out of date. Industry no longer uses the language in the computer and yet that is what these students at Centennial College have.

I hope the minister is listening, because I would like her to contradict whether the quality of education is still maintained in this province.

At the Northern College campus at Kirkland Lake students do not have enough computer terminals to do their homework and their assignments. The students have been told they

can be at the computer terminals for 15 minutes and that is it. Students are waiting in line to use the terminals.

Last year, the students decided this would not do and decided to have a collection among themselves to raise \$5,000 to buy two more computer terminals. The minister should tell me whether the quality of education is not suffering in our community colleges.

To continue with the Northern College campus at Kirkland Lake, the students had to petition the administration of the campus to have their library open after school hours instead of the library closing just when school hours were over. Tell me if that does not mean the quality of education is suffering. When a student is in class, he or she definitely cannot go to the library. There is absolutely no way the student can go and take out books or do any kind of research when the library is closed after school hours. Is the quality of education suffering?

Another question that is definitely a symptom of the lack of provincial funding for our community colleges is the fact that the community colleges, especially in Metropolitan Toronto and Sudbury, have found it necessary to extend the school year. You know as well as I do the student contact hours per week have been reduced. In some colleges, to make up the number of student contact hours in the long run over the year, they have to extend the school year by two weeks or two and a half weeks.

In doing that, the community colleges might be able to get away with it because the teachers' contract allows for that kind of thing to take place, but at the same time you must remember you are taking away from each and every student approximately \$1,000 to \$1,500 a year as a result of not being able to work those two weeks. You must remember—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Is that what the students are making, \$800 a week?

Mr. Grande: Let's say for two or two and a half weeks, \$1,000 or thereabouts. The students at Humber College have made a little study and they have decided that all the students collectively will be losing approximately, in terms of income, between \$4 million and \$5 million as a result of the lengthening of the school year. Not only that, since the students get out two and a half weeks later, they will not be able to compete for jobs with the university students.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes, they will.

Mr. Grande: At least that is what the students are talking about. All I am attempting to do is to tell the minister there are very serious problems in our community colleges and that political placebo of hers of a 12.2 per cent increase is certainly not going to—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It's more than they expected.

Mr. Grande: It is more than they expected, I will grant her that. They expected an 8.5 per cent increase and they got 12.2 per cent and, as the minister so proudly says, another one per cent for growth related, etc.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It was you who suggested they were going to get 8.5 per cent.

Mr. Grande: It was not me. That is what the presidents were saying. As a matter of fact, the college presidents were saying, "We do not understand why in previous years we found out in December, so we were able to plan for the coming year, but this year we had no inkling whatsoever until the month of February." What kind of planning process could those people get involved in?

Of course, the minister realized that this particular year she had her problems in terms of coming to grips with a lot of studies and she had to decide on some kind of a direction. I suggest the 12.2 per cent increase has nothing to do with her, but it has something to do with the federal government, because the federal government said, "Unless you give more than a 12 per cent increase to post-secondary education there will be some difficulties."

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That's sheer hogwash.

Mr. Grande: Anyway, whatever her motivation was for that percentage increase, all I am saying is that the college presidents were expecting about an 8.5 per cent increase. As a result of that planning, taking that factor into account, they fired teachers and closed down programs, they lengthened the school year and did a host of other things that there is no time for me to outline—we will certainly get involved with them in the full estimates of the ministry—and thereby destroyed or allowed a further deterioration of the quality of education in our community colleges.

Let me ask the Minister of Colleges and Universities, why we have a study—I guess it was leaked—called the final report on college growth, and yet the ministry does not see fit to release that report?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is not the final report.

Mr. Grande: The minister does realize, because obviously it was given to her by the Ontario Council of Regents, that 50,000 students were not accepted in 1980-81 and that report says, "It is interesting to note that if only one in five of these unaccepted applicants is qualified as a qualified applicant to a program with good career possibilities, the college post-secondary operation would have to be 20 to 25 per cent larger to accommodate them."

In other words, I would gather that once you take away the applications of people applying to two or three different colleges and different programs from that 50,000, you come down to about 15,000 or 20,000 qualified secondary school graduates in this province who wanted to go to the community college system and were not allowed in because there is no place for them. Then we wonder why the youth unemployment rate is increasing and why, as the question was asked in question period today, we now have 15.2 per cent youth unemployment when a year ago we had 13.1 per cent unemployment. It is incredible.

3:50 p.m.

There were 139,000 unemployed as of February 1981, and as of February 1982 there are 163,000, or 15.5 per cent. Then we find out that 20,000 of them were not accepted in our community colleges.

It correlates very well. Where are those 20,000 students who were not allowed, or could not go to community colleges? Did you ever figure it out? Did you ever follow these students? Are they unemployed? I would guarantee you that if not 80 per cent, then at least somewhere between 70 and 80 per cent of those students would be unemployed right now. Your ministry and your government become expert in creating unemployment and not in creating employment in this province.

The fact is that these students do not have the skills which you say, and everyone agrees, they need in order to get a job and to get suitable employment. What you are doing is retaining them, maintaining them and keeping them out of the community colleges because of your underfunding, because of the fact that there are no places at the community colleges.

I want to suggest that if you are, as a government on that side, really seriously concerned about skills training, concerned about youth unemployment, concerned about making sure the economy of this province begins to pick up, you will bring in programs. The studies of your ministry have told you that the problem

within the next decade in Ontario is not going to be capital, it is going to be skilled labour that is going to maintain or hold down the economic growth of the province. However, you are doing very little in terms of skills training in this province.

You talk a lot. You say you are concerned, and you bring in some programs which will make less than an ounce of difference. However, you have not seriously tackled the problem of skills training in Ontario.

I want to say to you that in order to do that, in order to seriously tackle the problem of skills training, you have to stop catering to the private sector in this province. You have to do that. You cannot go on indefinitely saying how frustrated you are as a minister that the private sector is not coming through, not fulfilling its obligations to skills training. You join hands with the federal Minister of Labour in saying that unless the private sector begins to do the skills training in a serious way, you are going to have to legislate that. So stop the threatening and do it.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We have already said that.

Mr. Grande: What have you said?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We have already said that. You want us to say it; we have already said it.

Mr. T. P. Reid: He has made this speech 20 times before and he is going to make it again today.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No matter what I say.

The Deputy Chairman: Order, please. The honourable member has the floor and may continue.

Mr. Grande: If the member for Rainy River wants to involve himself in the debate he can feel very welcome. In fact, I encourage him.

The Deputy Chairman: He will have his opportunity. You have yours now.

Mr. Grande: We read in the local press, in the Toronto Star, articles like the one about students in the metal machining program of Seneca College who were supposedly guaranteed jobs when they graduated, and they were graduating and then getting really frustrated because employers were turning them down saying, "We don't need you."

When the ministry spends \$1.2 million to build a centre and \$700,000 in machinery, and then the private sector says to these newly skilled people, "Sorry, we don't need you now

because of the economic downturn," then I would say to the minister you are spending the public money to subsidize the private sector. The private sector says, "Now we need them; tomorrow we don't," and the public sector has spent the money.

The minister should tell the private sector, "You must provide the skills training programs, and we will legislate that you have them." The middle and low-income families in this province should not be subsidizing the private sector for the skilled people they need. The private sector has had enough concessions in this province.

Just for the member for Rainy River—I am sure he is interested as a Liberal-Labour candidate in this province—for his benefit and perhaps for the benefit of the minister, although the minister probably does not require any of my wisdom whatsoever, when the budget was broken down in 1960-61, the private sector was paying \$1.79 for every dollar of personal income tax raised in this province. Those were the rates back in 1960-61. In 1980-81, the rates were, for every dollar of personal income tax raised by your government, the corporate sector paid only 25 cents.

If the rates had remained the same between 1960-61 and 1980-81, your government would have raised \$11 billion from the corporate sector. That would have been enough money to buy Suncor. That would have been enough money to have had a proper skills training program, and there would certainly have been money left to spare.

Instead, the government decided to leave that money in the corporate sector, and then the corporate sector screams because the government has not provided skills training programs. It is nice to have it both ways. The government has allowed them to have it both ways.

The time has come for skills training programs to be legislated. Then the province can begin the process of industrial growth as opposed to the process we have been in for the last three to four years; that of de-industrialization and industrial decay. I hope the minister will take this seriously, maybe not my remarks but certainly the remarks of some of the reports the federal government has been introducing lately, and will move in those directions.

Mr. Chairman: Is the minister going to respond?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I will respond at the end.

Mr. McGuigan: Mr. Chairman, I wish to rise

to speak about the underfunding of community colleges—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is not what this vote is about.

Mr. McGuigan: Is that the ruling, Mr. Chairman, that this

Mr. Chairman: I believe when we were working on this on Friday, we were trying to orientate the college and adult education support programs.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No sir, it is adult apprenticeship training through the Canada Manpower industrial training program.

4 p.m.

Mr. Chairman: Do you want to make a good short point on that?

Mr. McGuigan: Yes, it will be short. I am speaking about St. Clair College campus in Chatham, where the craft course has been dropped. Those in the first year of the course will be allowed to go next year, but that will be the end of the course. If it is not restarted within two years, I understand that is the end of it.

The reason given by the president of the college, Mr. McCausland, is that it does not meet the objectives of the college. One of the points in favour of having craft courses is the fact that the former Minister of Industry and Tourism, now the Minister of Health (Mr. Grossman), pointed out that tourism was going to be the number one industry in Ontario in the not-too-distant future.

Having been a tourist in England and Scotland last summer, I noticed there was a very large trade in craft items to cater to those tourists. Craft stores certainly were well patronized and a great deal of money was being brought in by local people through the sale of their crafts.

Mr. Chairman: We are working this in, are we, coming full circle?

Mr. McGuigan: Yes. The point of it is, in the economic sense the employment of people and selling of these crafts is a renewable resource. We are not relying on the sale of our resources. We have a renewable resource that can be carried on from year to year, is noninflationary and does give a positive aspect to our economy.

My complaint is that this design course at St. Clair College should be given further consideration and should take in some of the elements I have mentioned. I have other things but, since you have been good enough to let me put this in on this part of the vote, I will let it go at that.

Certainly the people involved are very disappointed, and I feel they have a legitimate complaint.

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Chairman, I want to direct some questions to the minister relating to manpower training, particularly at Niagara College.

I believe it was a year or so ago during consideration of the estimates that I discussed the supply of educational equipment to the occupational training areas of Niagara College. At that time the minister did come forward with additional funding to provide some technical machinery such as milling machines, lathes and a few other things related to manpower training.

I understand there may still be some difficulties within Niagara College. Supply of equipment is not coming into the occupational training area of the college because of lack of funding from the ministry. I notice an additional \$5.5 million is going to be spent to support technology in colleges, and I suppose that would include machinists.

I was wondering whether, through the manpower training program in colleges, the minister got into the computer setup of industrial machines such as lathes, milling machines, drill presses and so on so that we have up-to-date machinery available for training in the area of skilled trades?

I am a little alarmed about one federal report that says we are going to need another 65,000 skilled tradesmen in the province. It indicates the minister has not been listening to the projection of occupational training data that have been available through the federal minister of manpower and perhaps even the so-called Ontario Manpower Commission. It has been around for about 10 years. I am thinking of the chap who used to be the member for Hamilton; was it Mr. McNie? He was head of that, was he not? He was given that portfolio, I believe.

Mr. Nixon: McNie.

Mr. Haggerty: The Honourable John McNie, yes; that is right. He was given that area of manpower training to bring forward all the forecasting of numbers of persons who would be needed in our great industrial complex in Ontario. What has taken place today is that you have failed in this particular area. You have not come forward with a massive training program for the skilled trades in Ontario and we have had to go offshore.

It is a good thing we have Ontario Hydro, which has a fair training program for the skilled

trades in Ontario. Even they have gone offshore to bring in additional personnel to keep the nuclear plants, their hydraulic plants and other types of electrical output going in the province. We have gone offshore in a number of cases. I have known persons who have been employed by Hydro who have come down here continuously for the past three or four years, although not so much in the last year and a half. They had a little bus that took them directly to Douglas Point. It surely does indicate that the Ministry of Education has failed in this area.

I know the federal government has provided funds over the years for manpower training. I do not know what you have done with the millions of dollars that were there. I have raised this question with you on a number of occasions.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We have trained people with them.

Mr. Haggerty: I think it was around \$240 million for a three-year period, and that was about three years ago. I do not know what they have come forward with now, but I suppose they have perhaps lost some interest in providing those funds if you have not come through with a program that will provide—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We have done better than any other province.

Mr. Haggerty: Oh, yes, it looks like it. Yes, we have gone offshore too, more than any other province, to bring in skilled workers. You cannot have it both ways.

But the point I am trying to drive home to the minister is that you have failed in this area.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, we have not.

Mr. Haggerty: In my very first speech in the Legislature back in 1967, the year I was elected, I was trying to drive home then to the minister responsible for manpower training in Ontario that we were lacking a good, sound apprenticeship program, and we are still lacking that today. You are not coming through.

Mr. Ruston: The only good apprenticeship you've got here today is your politics. You always get re-elected, but you never look after the work force.

Mr. Haggerty: Never. That is one of the—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is absolute balderdash. Please speak the truth.

Mr. Ruston: That is not. It is exactly right on.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: He accused me the other day of maligning him. Speak the truth.

Mr. Haggerty: Balderdash, eh?

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Chairman, can't you do something about this?

Mr. Chairman: I am quite enjoying this. I might learn something.

Mr. Haggerty: But surely the minister is well aware that there is a requirement for additional tradesmen in the province.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Of course.

Mr. Haggerty: Of course. But what have you actually done? I mean, you have done something, but not enough to create enough of those positions here for Ontario.

Right now, what I am suggesting to the minister is that she should go to some of these colleges. I believe one of the members who spoke previously mentioned that there is lack of proper equipment. There is insufficient equipment in these colleges to train persons in the area of technology and research. Check it out with Niagara College. In fact, the president of Niagara College came to me after I had raised the matter with you about a year and a half ago, and she was a little bit up tight about it. She said, "I got proper hell from the minister for giving you that information."

Hon. Miss Stephenson: She did not.

Mr. Haggerty: I am telling you what she told me. I was at the opening—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: How?

Mr. Haggerty: How?, by letter.

Mr. Nixon: Intimidation. I can attest to the fact that you are intimidating.

Mr. Haggerty: And this is what she said.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: You try intimidating Jacqueline Robarts and see how far you get.

Mr. Haggerty: This is what she said at the opening of the program she has going now with the industry and the colleges in trying to improve the apprenticeship in the area.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Where do you think the initiative for that came from? It came from the ministry.

Mr. Haggerty: All I said to her was, "You got results by bringing it to the opposition members, didn't you? You have all this new machinery." That was the first time they had any machinery in a long time.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It had nothing to do with you—nothing.

Mr. Haggerty: Welland Vale Centre is the one I am talking about. It is part of Niagara College. I am telling you this is what she told me. I was just talking to a chap who is one of the

board members—he is an adviser in the technical area—and he said they do not have enough equipment to handle the number of students coming into the program.

4:10 p.m.

The minister should be getting out to these colleges and taking along some opposition members. Maybe we can both learn something about the lack of proper teaching equipment. If we are going to expand our technology and skilled trades in Ontario, I suggest the proposed \$5.5 million does not go far enough.

Some of the programs they have there relate to what we are talking about: providing funds to educate students in the colleges. What we should do is get an invitation from the president, go through the school and see what they do require. I am sure they require additional equipment.

One of the programs they have is for dental technicians. I know students have applied for it, taken the prequalifications to enrol in the program and then, when the course is open, they find there are no vacancies for them; they have to wait another year to enrol, without any guarantee that they will be accepted that year.

I suppose we are looking at an area that we may be looking forward—

Mr. Chairman: Not too far in that area. Let us try to get back a little bit to support programs for adult education.

Mr. Haggerty: We are right on there with it, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Come on.

Mr. Haggerty: Certainly we are. We are talking about spending public funds in this area for support of colleges and universities.

Mr. Chairman: Well, adult programs.

Mr. Haggerty: Can the minister tell us what she is spending the \$5.5 million on? Can she give us an outline of what the money is going to be spent on? What equipment are we buying? Which schools is it being spent on?

Mr. Chairman: Is the minister making a note of that?

Mr. Haggerty: I will end up with that, as long as the minister can give me those answers.

Mr. Chairman: I will make sure she hears it, since I cut the member off. Try it again, or is the member finished?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am sorry. I did not hear—

Mr. Chairman: I know that.

Mr. Haggerty: The chairman is trying to speed things up, and I said I will sum it up by asking the minister: where is this \$5.5 million going to be spent? On what colleges and what equipment is she buying?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I answered that.

Mr. Chairman: Well, the minister has another chance. Any further discussions?

Mr. Newman: Mr. Chairman, I want to make a few comments on this topic, especially from the experience I have had. Let me tell the minister that, in the years I have been in this House, I have yet to find the government serious about apprenticeship programs to develop the required skilled tradesmen.

The minister may shake her head, but I am speaking from the experience I have had both as a legislator and as one trying to problem solve for individuals who attempted to get apprenticeship programs.

It was long before her day when International Tools Limited in the Windsor area was originally owned and operated by a man called Peter Hedgewick. When it became incorporated, there were other individuals taken in. Hedgewick learned his toolmaking skill through an apprenticeship program; so when he got into industry, he thought the least he could do was to train skilled tradesmen.

He was extremely successful at that except, as soon as these young and middle-aged individuals he had taught became proficient, they left his employ and worked for someone else. He did not even get the benefit of operating a program gratis that should have been operated by the provincial government at that time.

I just want to read into the record a letter I had written to the Minister of Education, to the Minister of Labour and another minister some years ago.

I said: "I am told there is quite a bit of concern being expressed by the skilled trades in my area over advancing technology in the auto manufacturing industry. Within three to five years, they feel that technological advances will be revolutionary and will adversely affect the skilled trades and technicians. They see changes coming about now.

"Industry, I am told, is not training or preparing its employees for this future. Is your department undertaking any studies in this field so that there may be a smooth and progressive transition of workers from today's skills into the new skills that will be required in the foreseeable future? Is your department encouraging

both industry and union, individually or co-operatively, or with your leadership, to undertake training, retraining and upgrading skill programs to lessen, minimize or eliminate any adverse affects of revolutionary technological advances in the auto industry?

"I trust I will receive a reply as to the position of your department in this regard."

I did get a reply from an individual at that time. However, this letter was written in 1969. The Minister of Education then in charge of the program was the present Premier (Mr. Davis), and yet we have a greater shortage of skills in our society today than we ever had. And you tell me you have kept up to date in the program? By no means.

Your ministry in the years gone by has been asleep at the switch. It has had programs, yes. I will not deny that it had them, but they never attempted at any time to meet the needs. Fortunately for Ontario, we were able to steal skills. We stole them from Europe. We brought in all the people we needed at that time, and they were glad to come here and lend their skills to build a greater province and a greater Canada. But neither you nor the Ministry of Education can take credit for it. It was the department of immigration that brought them in. They saw a rosier future in Ontario and in Canada than they did in their own countries, essentially the European countries, including England, Scotland and Ireland.

I can recall from practical experience, having been a school teacher at one time, students wanting to go into some of these skills, but they were limited in the schools. Not only were they limited, but also they could not get the equipment they needed in the schools. They got equipment, but they were using equipment—I should not say it was scrap, but it was not the type of equipment that should have been used. I know the equipment is costly, but how are you going to teach some of these skills if you do not have the tools with which to teach them?

Look back in the community now. It took two years to get the skills training centre open. There was a little power struggle going on between two groups, the Ministry of Education and—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: One year.

Mr. Newman: Maybe one year to you but, as far as I am concerned, it took a longer time than that. I am trying to be constructive in my comments here, because it hurts me when I go back into the community and find a whole group of individuals wanting to take the tool and

die course, and we are only going to take 60 of them. We allow 80 to write the tests and we come along and take 60 or 65.

We need these types of skills in the community. We are not going to put people back to work unless some of these skills are developed in our young people. I should not use the term "young people," but I should say individuals wishing to upgrade, retrain or develop a new skill.

There are always more individuals wishing to take the program than is possible with the funds allocated. If you were serious about the program, you would try to teach all these skills as quickly as you could, because we are going to be short of the skills down the road.

4:20 p.m.

Economic conditions are not rosy. They are not the way we would like to see them, but down the road they are going to improve. We have had rough times in the past. We always come out of the rough times and get into better times; we will have them again. We are going to have, as we have now, acute shortages of certain skills and it is the responsibility of the ministry to see the facilities and the manpower are available to teach those skills.

You have cut back at the community colleges. Why would you cut back at a college that is developing skills that are going to make for a new and better tomorrow? When you see the number of staff who have been let go at St. Clair College—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Not in the skills area.

Mr. Newman: You say you have not cut back?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Not in the skills area.

Mr. Newman: Skills are not necessarily all mechanical or the type of skill—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That's what you have been telling me.

Mr. Newman: I will agree with you to a certain point, but let me tell you that the Ministry of Education in my years of sitting here has been a failure in meeting the challenges of tomorrow.

You have talked about the past, but you really have not met the challenge. Industry at one time trained the skills; but why should they train them? International Tools, with Peter Hedgewick there, trained hundreds of tool and die makers. He found out all he was doing was training them for someone else when that was really Education's responsibility.

I do not want to go on any longer, but I plead

with the minister to get those skills of tomorrow in the schools of today so we can at least see a rosier tomorrow. I think that is her responsibility.

Mr. Chairman: Is there any further discussion? Does the minister have anything to add to her interjections?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Chairman, you must admit some of those statements were somewhat provocative.

The final speaker suggested that I concentrated on the past. He was making a speech I made six years ago which has led to a great deal of modification and, I think, innovation and improvement in the role we play in the development of skills in Ontario. This was made at a conference we organized five or six years ago which outlined the paradox we had in terms of the requirement for skills and the numbers of young people who were not involved in that kind of training.

There are times when I think the members opposite would like us to become a totalitarian state in which we could direct all of the students whose skills we saw as appropriate into certain kinds of training programs. But we still live in a democracy where choices are made by young people. We try to make those choices available to them on a broad base.

Last Friday, a question was raised by the member for Etobicoke (Mr. Philip) regarding one of his constituents who had been laid off at McDonnell Douglas. This gentleman has a credit of approximately 5,700 hours towards the completion of his industrial millwright apprenticeship. He is scheduled to attend the in-school training portion of his program, beginning April 26. The space of time between his layoff and the beginning of that program made him, I guess, a less than totally desirable applicant for some of the places he might have applied to. He has also expressed a desire to attend the advanced in-school session at the earliest opportunity. We are going to attempt to help him to do that in August 1982.

The government and most employers recognize the skill that Mr. Hilliard has achieved by work experience and school attendance, but the government can only recommend that such credit be accepted by prospective employers. Most of the employers in the province do accept that. There are one or two that do not and, unfortunately, Mr. Hilliard's problem is with one of those employers.

At any rate, the counsellor is helping him. Any apprentice who has that kind of problem

would be well advised to talk immediately to his apprenticeship counsellor, who can provide a great deal of assistance.

On that same day, the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) raised a question regarding the woodworkers' program in Pembroke which is proposed to be suspended by the board of governors of Algonquin College. The course is a very good course, but it requires a minimum of 30 students to make it a viable operation. In all the years of delivering the program, the course has never been able to recruit more than 25 students, and usually 20.

The attrition rate is extremely high because of the training, which is very much safety-oriented. The attitude of many individuals entering the course is such that they pose a danger to fellow students and instructors. If after extensive counselling the individual's attitude has not changed, he is asked to leave the course. The attrition rate within that course is significantly higher than within most courses.

The construction industry downturn at present is resulting in significant layoffs, and the employment prospects for current students are very poor.

The college has looked at all matters related to this course and has suggested that it probably could be better provided by the industry itself. The community industrial training council of Renfrew county is working with a couple of companies in the hope that they will be able to introduce a course for graduates of the and has suggested that it probably could be better provided by the industry itself. The community industrial training council of Renfrew county is working with a couple of companies in the hope that they will be able to introduce a course for graduates of the programs at Confederation and Northern and of other similar programs. This would provide the basic training of the course, and the more highly skilled portion of the course could be provided by the industry. They are working with industry right now to do that.

Mr. Conway: I appreciate that very much, but did anybody tell you how it is they could be in any danger?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes, because of the safety implications of the kinds of things they do. I don't know exactly. I will find out the details of that. They simply said there were major safety implications for the hands-on portion of the course and the students had to be extremely safety-oriented.

The member for Oakwood (Mr. Grande) talked entirely about college funding. This

supplementary estimate, I reminded him, is specifically related to adult training supplied within the colleges and the academic portion of apprenticeship training, also supplied within the colleges.

I will give you details of what this \$5.5 million is for. In the adult training area, there is a net reduction of 267 man-days owing to less academic upgrading being supported by the federal government. That is one of the reasons we have moved in the direction of more specific support of adult basic literacy as a means of upgrading many people for further development of their job skills.

There has been a very real reduction in federal support for English-as-a-second-language instruction in that academic upgrading portion and in the heavy equipment training area. Additional funding, however, is required because there have been rate changes, additional rental requirements and compensation to the colleges for the increased costs of administering Canada Manpower industrial training programs.

In the apprenticeship area, the increase is required specifically for an increase in the 34,000 additional man-days required because of the increased number of apprentices. The additional man-days are certainly a result of increased demand for part-time, in-school training under the employer-sponsored training initiative.

The member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. McGuigan), the member for Erie (Mr. Haggerty) and the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. Cooke) have been critical of the fact that there were insufficient numbers of apprenticeship places, in spite of the fact that we have been diligently working at increasing the total number of traditional apprenticeship programs, attempting to decrease the time requirement for a significant number of those, attempting to move to a competence base rather than a time base for apprenticeship and attempting to persuade larger numbers of employers to become involved in that kind of activity, although we have increased the number of employers who are involved in providing the on-the-job training portion of apprenticeship.

I gather the difficulty that our old friend Mr. Hedgewick demonstrated so clearly in 1969 is not very much of a problem now and it will not raise its ugly head again.

4:30 p.m.

In addition, we have been pushing very diligently and effectively in the area of co-operative education, both at the secondary level

and at the community college level. The university level is a little more difficult to persuade, but at the college level this is happening with increasing frequency. There are many more professional advisory committees involved.

There is a very significant increase in activity related to retraining and upgrading through our training in business and industry program, which is not a part of this but is entirely provincial money, which has within the past eight months provided almost 13,000 more training places with almost 300 employers in this province. That is specifically related, I would tell the member for Erie, to the skills upgrading for those in industry who require upgrading because their jobs may become redundant or because there is to be technological change which would leave them out in the cold.

Mr. Haggerty: For the last 10 years you have done nothing.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I'm sorry, I have not been around here for 10 years so I have a little difficulty with that.

Mr. Haggerty: I have.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: You haven't achieved a great deal then.

In the area of numerical control, many of the colleges have moved to the introduction of machinery with numerical control for training. If it is not present in some of the colleges that you have visited, there was a specific funding mechanism introduced last year to help the colleges to upgrade their facilities. That funding mechanism was through the distribution of the normal funding to colleges, but in addition to that, \$8 million was made available to the colleges specifically for the improvement of facilities for high-technology training areas. The colleges have indeed utilized that entire \$8 million. This year the increase—I would remind the member for Oakwood (Mr. Grande), who always has difficulty with figures—was 12.2 per cent plus an additional one per cent which is to be distributed on the basis of the increased enrolment within the college system.

We most definitely have been looking at what the colleges require and what we require as a province in order to make progress in this era in which change is likely to be our only constant.

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Chairman, I want to engage the minister in some dialogue for a little while.

I want to remind the minister of a problem we had with regard to this \$6-million computer that you have processing the applications and the registration for employees who want to get into

the retraining programs under the auspices of a variety of industries throughout Ontario. Don't look so surprised, Madam Minister, it will come to you. I brought a problem to your attention that American Can of Canada Ltd. was having with regard to the apprenticeship retraining programs.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is an apprenticeship program.

Mr. Stokes: Yes.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Not training.

Mr. Stokes: All right. If somebody is working as a labourer and wants to upgrade himself within the industry, he enrolls with his employer and gets into an apprenticeship course or retraining course.

Anyway, when we phoned your ministry we found out those applications had been in the process for eight or nine months and the computer was incapable of getting the information out the other end in the way it was designed to do. As I recall, American Can had 15 or 16 apprentices in the course. They had completed all of the work-oriented portion of the course. They were into the third year and still they had not been able to get registered so that they could do whatever theory was involved to complete this three-year apprenticeship retraining.

You assured me you were coming to grips with the problems you were having with the computer and you had assured the employer that you had a handle on whatever the difficulties were.

I am still getting letters from the employer, in this case, American Can of Canada Ltd., located in Marathon, saying it has not had the problem solved to its satisfaction. I have written to Lloyd Axworthy at the federal level because I felt the federal government had some responsibility too since they were federal funds. That is one of the problems, the inability of this reorganization, or going to a computerized system, to solve something as simple, to my mind, as the registration of these people enrolled in these programs.

The second thing I want to bring to the minister's attention is a letter from a young person in my riding who went to community college, in this instance, Confederation College in Thunder Bay. I am sorry I do not have the letter with me now, it is downstairs in my office.

He was advised by his counsellor in high school to get into a training program that would fit him for the world of work outside. In this case it was as a millwright in one of the paper mills in northern Ontario.

He had completed the classroom section of this course and the college said, "Now go out and find an employer." He tried Kimberly-Clark of Canada Ltd. I am sure he tried American Can, and I am sure he tried Domtar and probably Abitibi and Great Lakes Forest Products in Thunder Bay. He had started on it.

I heard you say in answer to a question previously asked by one of my colleagues that you were now trying to get employers to accept their responsibility in the overall process by hiring these people so that they could complete the course. We have an investment in these young people. I just wish I had the letter with me so I could—it was almost pleading, saying, "I was advised this was the way to go." Starting with the guidance counsellor in the high school, he got all the encouragement and support he needed from Confederation College, but he needs a work experience.

Why not follow through with this in a logical and a sane and a rational way when we have an investment in these young people? They are doing what they were supposed to do; they are doing what they were advised to do, and they get to the last long mile only to find out that the system has broken down somewhere. I suggest to the minister and to her counterpart in Ottawa, Lloyd Axworthy, we make an investment, we give encouragement to young people to get involved in these very worthwhile programs, then all of a sudden the system breaks down. When they get to the final point where they say, "All right, all we need now is the work experience," they find it is not available to them.

Why would your ministry or Mr. Axworthy from Canada Manpower not go to these employers and say, "All right, we have so many people enrolled in these various programs." I do not much care whether it is as a millwright or a barber or a hairdresser or any of the variety of programs that are available under this program. Why is there not a co-ordinated effort to match up the students? They make quite an investment in time, in effort, in dedication—as well as a lot of time being spent by people within your ministry and by people in Ottawa, along with the financial resources to make it possible—only to find out that the whole system breaks down.

4:40 p.m.

Why is there this lack of co-ordination? We should see the whole program through to fruition so we are actually retraining people. Notwithstanding the world economic recession that has had an effect right through the economy—and, of course, the pulp and paper

industry has not been immune to those forces—we are going to need people like the young fellow I spoke of earlier.

As a matter of fact, we are importing people with a high degree of technical skills. The people we need to keep our industries going are being imported from elsewhere in good times but, because of what we hope will be a short economic recession throughout the economy, it is perhaps a little more difficult now to place these people in the appropriate work environment.

I think we are wasting money. We are building up a lot of false hopes in these young people when they do everything expected of them only to find out that the system breaks down.

That is tough for young people to take. What can you do in concert with your federal counterpart to make it possible, with the assistance of the appropriate industry, to see these people can complete the apprenticeship courses and become qualified to accept the jobs we have in industries such as the pulp and paper industry in northern Ontario?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The situation related by the member for Lake Nipigon, regarding the individual who was unable to find an appropriate on-the-job training program following the academic portion of his training, is one that has been of concern to all of us for some time.

A major degree of activity has been pursued in attempting to change the attitudes of Canadian employers, which would appear to have been a major impediment in that portion of the training for quite some time. In most instances, the Canadian attitude was it was not necessary to do training, not recognizing that one of the greatest investments a company can make is in the training of the people that company will require to maintain its activity through the years.

We have always asserted that the basic promise of an apprenticeship is that it is a contract between an employer and a person to have a skill developed within that individual of such a nature as to be best learned on the job, but that there was an academic portion of that.

There has been some modification of that program through certain activities which have been carried out in the critical skills area. The idea for the critical skills training program came from here and then was initiated by the federal government. It is certainly directing young people into areas of training which provide some of the academic or school portion first,

before they actually become involved in on-the-job training.

We have also been talking with the federal government about ways in which we can encourage employers, particularly during downturns of the economy, to take on these young people who have skills that are going to be critical to the future of a company or the future of our economy.

At any rate, we are moving in the direction of attempting to co-ordinate more effectively the courses that have been developed and the necessary on-the-job places which are necessary. At most of the colleges, the teachers—

Mr. Grande: You don't really realize the crisis.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: If the member for Oakwood (Mr. Grande) would be quiet for five minutes, it would help.

At most colleges, the professional advisory committee, the teachers and the counsellors are actively involved in attempting to put those who graduate from the programs together with the companies that have the on-the-job training capacity for those young people.

The difficulty at the moment is the companies are saying they do not have enough money to do it because their profits are so far down and the investment is beyond their reach. We have been attempting to persuade the federal government that it might be useful to consider—

Mr. Grande: Or lay them off.

Mr. Stokes: Be quiet.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I thank the member for Lake Nipigon.

We are trying to persuade the federal government it would perhaps be useful to consider the redirection of some funds, which may or may not come from the Unemployment Insurance Commission or from some other source, to the support of on-the-job training for those young people. We have not succeeded totally in that as yet, but that conversation is going on.

This is a matter of concern to us because we are very much aware of the needs in a number of critical skills areas. We have this problem in my own riding as a result of the course developed by Seneca College at industry's request. Most of those young people have been moved into on-the-job training places because the college, the industrial training council and the professional advisory committee got together and started working on the problem. That is what has to happen, along with the activities of the counsellors within the apprenticeship branch.

The member for Lake Nipigon suggested the registration and tracking of 40,000 apprentices and 135 journeymen in 400 apprenticeship programs was not necessarily a complex kind of activity. It is, and it is causing some problems in terms of the total reorganization of the apprenticeship branch into that computer-based activity. That will ensure any individual involved in that kind of skills training being able to know what his requirements are at any time. It will keep a record of where he is and at what level he is training. That will be recorded for the apprentice and for those who are concerned about better apprentice training.

I am afraid the problem at American Can was probably our fault because we did not succeed in solving all the problems of the 15 or so apprentices the member relayed to us. These are being done manually at the present time and they will be done very rapidly. We are attempting to do that until the computer program is sorted out. That will be done; I promise that. In the not too distant future it will be completed and we will have full computerized tracking of every apprentice in this province with a log and the information which he needs, which his employer needs or which the education system needs in support of his or her activity.

Mr. Chairman, I apparently said 135 journeymen; it should have been 135,000.

Mr. Grande: The minister mentioned the problem of Seneca College in her own riding and in my remarks I talked about Seneca and the concerns of the students in the precision metal machining program. The problem, it appeared, was that the employers did not maintain their commitments to hire these students once they had been trained. Could the minister tell us why the ministry does not have any agreement whatsoever with the employers to hire these students, given the fact the \$1.2 million to set up the centre and the \$700,000 in equipment for use in the centre have been paid totally by the public purse?

Does the minister not think there should be at least some kind of an agreement between the ministry and the employers who say they require these skilled people? Does it sound reasonable or not?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Chairman, the initiative which leads to the development of the centres comes from the community industrial training councils. These are made up of representatives of the municipality, the educational institutions, the employers, the trade unions in the area; educators at all levels. The initiative is

based on the information developed by surveys which are carried out in the area, and by the coming together of all of those who have the capacity to analyse those surveys and to establish the ground rules for necessary programs.

This is done entirely on the basis of a gentlemen's agreement. It may be foreign to the honourable member, but it is an operation which has been ongoing within North American and European society for some time. It does not require the kinds of legalized commitments you are talking about. It has been extremely successful in other areas and there was a very grave economic downturn which persuaded some of the employers involved that they did not need all of those graduates at the time they graduated.

4:50 p.m.

As I said, we are attempting to resolve that problem and I think we can probably do it without tying everyone up in 45 miles of legal verbiage or in imposing legislated solutions upon a matter which I think probably can be resolved voluntarily and co-operatively, as long as the attitudes can be dramatically changed within other parts of the community.

The employers involved in this program not only involve themselves in the development of the surveys, in carrying out the surveys, in analysing the information, they also involve themselves in the development of the programs and the planning of the centre and in some of the fitting of the centre. They have made significant contributions to the development of that centre and I do not think we should overlook that. They will continue to do so because they will take the graduates of that centre into on-the-job training programs.

Mr. Grande: So you are saying, "No agreement." Is that what you are saying?

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Chairman, I want to raise some concerns with the minister about Algonquin College of Applied Arts and Technology since this vote is on the provincial support for the colleges and since Algonquin now has the information from the ministry with respect to the grants coming through in the coming year.

Mr. Chairman: I bring to the member's attention the fact that we have been trying to limit the discussion to the adult education support program.

Mr. Cassidy: I appreciate that, Mr. Chairman, but I think you will agree, the vote is for support to community colleges and that is technically what we are talking about. That

means the matters I wish to raise can be raised. In the past we have not been in the practice of discussing items on the estimates on the basis of the subvotes. Perhaps you will agree with me about that.

Mr. Chairman: No. I am not going to agree with you at all.

Mr. Cassidy: I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, but that has been the practice in this House for a long time. On the vote we are unable—

Mr. Chairman: I want to bring to your attention that during supplementary estimates for all the ministries we have been following the practice that where the minister has indicated specific aspects of what the supplementary estimate has been about, we have been limiting our discussions to that. If it is a general estimate, I know it is wide ranging.

Mr. Cassidy: Perhaps I could suggest that I be able to raise the matter I wish to raise now and that the matter then be taken to the committee on procedural affairs.

Mr. Chairman: I agree.

Mr. Cassidy: In that case I will raise my questions briefly and perhaps you could have the matter raised with the committee on procedural affairs.

Mr. Chairman: There was some discussion between the House leaders previously that under the supplementary estimates, quite often there was no indication as to exactly what they were for. Therefore, I have been following the procedure of allowing the ministers to have opening discussion so they could indicate to all members of the House what the supplementary estimate was about and then there would seem to be an understanding. So we have been ruling from the chair that we would follow on the basis of limiting the discussion to that particular area of supplementary estimates.

Mr. Cassidy: With respect, Mr. Chairman, it is not the ministers who decide what the members of this House want to discuss, at least that has not been the tradition we have had in the province. God knows, that tradition has been under threat from time to time.

Mr. Chairman: Let us not go into a long discussion in terms of what is taking place. You indicated that you had some short remarks.

Mr. Cassidy: I would just point out to the minister that Algonquin, as the largest college in the province, has been the one to suffer most because of the fact that the funding for community colleges has made special allowances for

small colleges. That has left Algonquin, as a college serving a very important region of the province and the largest one, traditionally at the short end.

Specifically, this year the college anticipated a 12 per cent increase in its expenditures. The overall grant for community colleges was an increase of about 11 per cent. In Algonquin's case that was equivalent to about an eight per cent increase. Since enrolment in the college is going up by an estimated three per cent for full-time enrolment and eight per cent in part-time enrolment, or perhaps about four per cent overall, what that means is that Algonquin is being asked to accommodate a four per cent increase in its enrolment with an eight per cent increase in grant.

The amount per student is about four per cent and this includes the students getting the apprenticeship programs which are provided through Algonquin. In real terms, that is a seven or eight per cent drop.

I just want the minister to respond to this: How on earth does she expect a community college like Algonquin to continue to provide any kind of service when it had to cut 118 positions last year, will have to cut 46 faculty positions this year, and will continue to have to cut back again and again and try to get by with a very real reduction in resources? That is my first question.

My second question is to ask the minister if she is aware that, in order to accommodate these pressures, it is now anticipated that Algonquin will extend its number of weeks for each course in such a way that the standard will now be 18 weeks per term rather than the 17 or 16 weeks that prevailed before.

Consequently, it is no longer possible for Algonquin to offer three full terms in the course of the year, but only to offer two and students will probably not emerge from their courses until the end of May, losing one of the four months they would have had to earn some money to keep them in community college. This is a response to funding cutbacks from the ministry, but it cuts their earning power by one quarter over the course of the summer and very substantially cuts the ability of the community college to offer a full program or anything approaching a full program over the course of the summer. If it wants to use the facilities adequately, in other words, it can only do so during two semesters in the year, where previously it might have been able to do so in three.

I have made my points briefly, Mr. Chairman.

I suspect these matters may come up again in future, but I would be interested in the response of the ministry to those two specific and very urgent questions.

Mr. Chairman: I would like to thank the honourable member for limiting his remarks.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The matters about which the honourable member spoke in his first point, the funding to the colleges, do not, in fact, affect the apprenticeship and adult training programs in the colleges. These are either federal purchases of seats or they are programs provided through the college in an apprenticeship program and funded through federal grants.

The amount of money given to the colleges generally was not 11 per cent. It was 12.2 per cent with an additional one per cent to recognize enrolment increases. Specific changes were made to the funding mechanism last year to recognize the college needs to develop high technology programs, specifically in areas such as Algonquin serves, in order to assist the college in moving from courses that had little or low employment opportunities for graduates into areas that were obviously in the high technology or technological areas where the possibility of employment was high. Those moves have been made specifically on behalf of the colleges and at a significant level of increase this year, far beyond many other areas for which government is responsible.

Mr. Cassidy: In the first place, the minister has not answered my specific question, which is in regard to the fact that, after all the extra allowances, Algonquin, the largest college in the province, comes through for the coming year with an eight per cent increase in resources and four per cent increase in enrolment. In real terms, that means it is suffering about a seven per cent drop in the resources it can devote per student. I would like to know whether she thinks that is adequate to maintain a high quality program.

My second point would be to take up what the minister said and ask her: In view of the fact that the ministry is allegedly increasing its provision for high tech courses, why was Algonquin denied funding for the programs it undertook in good faith and with the assurances of ministry officials to the tune of \$600,000 beginning last September, which had the effect of providing training for some 300 students? It then found no money was available and in the end only got \$68,000. In view of your commitment as just enunciated, are you prepared to reverse that

decision or will you leave Algonquin holding the bag when it acted in good faith with the encouragement it thought it was getting from the ministry?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, because the rules apply to all the colleges within the system. There is not one rule for Algonquin and one rule for the rest of the college system. I would have to verify the figures the honourable member used before I comment on them.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Chairman, I do not know if this matter has been raised. If it has, maybe the minister can tell me and I can check in Hansard for the answer. It is with respect to the courses being offered. There are a couple of community colleges that want to extend the year this coming spring, which would be detrimental to students. Would you be prepared to intervene to prevent that? I say to the minister in good faith that students who are desperately scratching and looking for summer jobs, are going to be excluded from the market for two or three weeks beyond—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, they are not.

Mr. Martel: Well, other students are going to be out ahead of them. They are not getting out at the same time.

5 p.m.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The applications go out long before that time.

Mr. Martel: Sure, but I suggest to you that many employers will hire those who are there first and are looking for the job. It is crazy. My understanding is all of them decided to go against it and then about 16 of them backed off and now we are left with six playing that little game out there on their own. The Lord knows it is difficult enough in northern Ontario to find a job in the summer without having students fall behind the eight ball by getting out two or three weeks after everyone else.

I would ask the minister to intervene and simply say, "No, we are not prepared to accept it." In the case of Sudbury, Mr. Koski will not be there next year to suffer the consequences of his actions, which will see the thing prolonged. That might be fine for him, he is gone; but other people in that community college are going to have to live with that decision and he will not have to be there to face the music.

Certainly, the students are opposed to it; the faculty in most instances is opposed to it. I do not think a few Pooh-Bahs at the top should be able to come in with that type of policy which is

going to be detrimental to so many students and I would ask the minister to intervene.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is my understanding that the decision has been taken in consultation with deans within the colleges and those who are responsible for the development of programs, and I do not believe it would be appropriate for me to intervene.

Mr. Martel: What on earth is the purpose of this little decision? My understanding was that they were uptight about some funding they thought they were not going to get. For example, I do not think Sudbury has a funding problem, as some have. I give Mr. Koski credit for having run a pretty tight ship up there but to simply say now, "Three more weeks next year" is crazy.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is not three; I think it is two.

Mr. Martel: Two or three. I understand it is three. I realize the minister's reluctance to interfere in what are supposed to be autonomous groups, but surely when 16 others backed off and maybe saw the error of their ways, those six remaining should be talked to in a very tough fashion saying, "Look, it is really going to be putting students at a disadvantage in those six community colleges."

At the same time, there is no consistency in the academic year for the people who are teaching. Surely we are not going to have people going off in any direction which suits their own fancy. There should be some consistency.

The minister is coming out with a report on the academic year for elementary schools. I was looking through it the other day. She is making certain recommendations as to whether it should be 194 days and so on. If she is prepared to do it there, surely she has the same right and the same responsibility to say in another sector that there should be consistency in the length of day. She is making certain recommendations as to whether it should be 194 days and so on. If she is prepared to do it there, surely she has the same right and the same responsibility to say in another sector that there should be consistency in the length of the academic year.

I do not mean that elementary schools should have the same length of time as universities, I am saying within that particular sphere.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I would be delighted to suggest that the community colleges and the universities should have the same academic year as the elementary and secondary schools,

that there should be 195 teaching days, for example, and that the year should run from September 1 to the end of June.

In all of those situations, you are not going to accept that and neither is the faculty. I would remind the member that we are dealing with adults, not only adults who are teaching, but adults who are students as well within that system. It is a slightly different situation from that of the elementary and secondary schools. I do not believe it calls for the same kind of process or mechanism of dealing with it.

I really would suggest very strongly to the member that most of the students within the college system make application for their summer jobs and have their summer jobs in hand long before the term ends. They are not in direct competition with university students in many instances. I would remind the member as well that the skills training programs within the colleges run continuously all year long and we are not interrupting the provision of skills training programs by the extension of courses for two weeks.

Mr. Martel: The minister is playing around. She has 16 community colleges operating on one schedule and six that have decided to go their own route on another schedule:

I do not agree with the minister that everyone has a job when school ends—whenever it should end for them. I suggest many of them will be desperately scrambling for any type of job this year. To have that sort of policy where six of the community colleges go their own route and the other 16 close sooner is really for the birds. There should be some consistency within that sphere of the academic year.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: At the university level there is a variation of between four and six weeks in the length of the academic year for students. There is some variation now in the length of courses at the community college level as well. I am not at all sure we should suggest there should be uniformity in the length of all courses within the college system or among the colleges within the system.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Chairman, at the university level there are definitely differences because certain professional programs last a lot longer than the bulk of the arts and science programs, but I would contend the arts and science programs do not have that kind of difference. I would like to give the minister the specifics about the proposals for Algonquin College so

she can see how ludicrous the results are going to be.

With the 18-week semester, students who have come in after Labour Day would continue until Christmas, then classes would resume for one week on January 3, examinations would be held January 10 to 14, and the winter break would go on until January 21 with classes resuming for the winter semester and with registration at the end of January. In other words, the period from mid-December until the end of January is impossibly chopped up because of this decision to add a couple of weeks to the semester.

The classes would cease on May 20, examinations would take place until May 23 or May 27 and the student seeking a job, whether he applied in advance or not, would not be able to actually be present to begin that job until about June 1, which would clearly mean he would be in a much weaker position competitively than somebody who could be available May 1, as had been the situation with the 16-week term.

The colleges are considering this because it is a means of shaving a few dollars off their part-time staff budget and that is the only reason. I would like to ask the minister whether she considers the saving of a few dollars in the instructional budget sufficient reason to put people through all this turmoil. There are thousands of students. Some students will be forced out of the community colleges completely because they cannot get enough money to afford to continue. Does that really make sense? I would like to ask specifically, will you intervene with those six colleges and insist they stick with the present pattern, which is a lot more logical and ensures the student can get a fair break in terms of getting summer work?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I think I have provided all the rationale which is necessary. I do not believe all the students are going to be totally disadvantaged. The length of employment depends upon the job the student gets. The student who is vigilant about seeking a job is obviously going to get it no matter when he or she is available for it. It would not be appropriate for me to intervene.

Mr. Grande: I raised the point in terms of Humber College and my colleague raised it in terms of Algonquin. Sudbury and all the Metro Toronto area is on this extended school year basis. Since the minister seems to say it is fine as far as she is concerned for the colleges to extend the school year, is she contemplating phenomenal increases in the Ontario student assistance

program for students who will not have that kind of earning power?

If the statistics for Humber College are correct, the students will lose approximately \$5 million to \$6 million in income as a result of the extended school year. Will you make increases in OSAP so the students will not suffer in terms of returning to school with enough money for their tuition fees and living expenses?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: If depriving the number of full-time students at Humber of two weeks' employment would account for \$5 million, then on a quick estimate I would suggest the students employed at that level would probably not need much in the way of assistance from the Ontario student assistance program. If that is the level of remuneration they can achieve through their summer employment programs, then obviously they are going to be able to meet most of their requirements through that summer employment.

5:10 p.m.

Vote 2802 agreed to.

The Deputy Chairman: This concludes the supplementary estimates for the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. We will proceed to the next item.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

On vote 1402, administrative services program:

The Deputy Chairman: Inasmuch as the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) is sick, we have an acting Attorney General, the Solicitor General. Will he commence the presentation?

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On this vote 1402 in the supplementary estimates, item 1, the funds are in the sum of \$3 million which have been approved by Management Board. However, they are before this chamber for approval.

Primarily they are in regard to legal aid; the ministry has requested the funding for the purpose of paying off legal aid accounts. It would mainly be a reduction of the outstanding certificate accounts. For those knowledgeable in this area, when individuals receive the services of a lawyer under the legal aid plan, the lawyer fills in a certificate account for payment for those services.

There had been a delay of about 12 weeks for payment after the solicitor submitted the account to legal aid. There was a request to reduce that

and to reduce the outstanding certificate account, which was approximately \$17,166. On April 1, 1981, that was reduced to about \$8,400, approximately a six-week delay for the end of the fiscal year for 1981-82.

The average cost of those accounts for individual legal aid certificates was between \$475 to \$485. Management Board approved the sum of \$3 million on March 9, 1982. It is to be provided through supplementary estimates on the understanding that additional funds will be used entirely for the reduction of the outstanding certificate accounts.

To make a comparison, there is about a five-week delay in paying the Ontario health insurance plan's outstanding accounts. So primarily these funds are to be used exclusively to reduce the legal aid accounts and to pay them more quickly.

Mr. Breithaupt: Mr. Chairman, as the acting Attorney General has mentioned, we find this additional payment of funds in the main office vote. Of course, under this ministry that is in effect a transfer payment as a contribution to the legal aid fund.

The reasons which the minister has suggested are quite clear. Not only do we have a reduction in the payment for outstanding certifications but a shortening of the delay with respect to the payment of funds to the legal profession.

Certainly there is a requirement here to increase the cash flow because of the increased efficiency of payment. I think the settlement system over the previous years has been somewhat slower than I am sure those people involved in the system prefer. As a result, to remove it now from the 12-week pattern to a six or seven-week pattern, is going to be well received by the profession.

The second aspect of this appears to be a certain underestimation in the number of certificates that would have been issued during the year. The opportunity to pay down those certificates is an important aspect of why we are voting this additional \$3 million.

It is apparent, now that we have an opportunity to consider the legal aid circumstances in this vote before us, we have concerns as to the plan itself, which was first set up in 1967, and with the budget constraints that could seriously threaten its very existence.

In an article in the *Toronto Star* on February 8, the Attorney General no less said: "I worry about the future of legal aid. I constantly have to battle in cabinet for more resources. Criminal

legal aid is not a popular concept within the public."

The Attorney General then went on to discuss further the increase in legal aid fees of 20 per cent in 1979, which was the first increase in six years. He also discussed the total amount of money that was available and made the following comment: "Under legal aid, people now have access to lawyers but it is difficult for people who are not well connected to know which lawyer to go to. My concern is that they get competent counsel."

We are all involved in that kind of concern, those of us in the House who happen to be lawyers and those who are involved in responsibility for the various aspects of criticism of the Justice field in both opposition parties.

The Attorney General is concerned about the lack of available funds. I certainly share that concern, as do a number of others who have watched the number of legal aid cases rise. We have watched the budget rise from \$43 million in 1980-81 to \$55 million in 1981-82. That is a large amount of funds to place—

Mr. Stokes: It is called Parkinson's Law. If you have more lawyers, you have to find something for them to do.

Mr. Breithaupt: I do not suggest the member for Lake Nipigon is entirely correct. Part of the requirement to provide these funds is not the number of lawyers involved. Indeed, if more lawyers were involved we might have the burden of this program shared more equitably throughout the legal profession. I suggest to you the problem is that, as a result of the difficulties in which our economy finds itself, there are many greater pressures being placed on the system because it is in more demand as our society goes through serious economic burdens.

This noon before the House sat, I had the pleasure of meeting with five people from the legal aid system. I might just explain to you who they were and their concerns with respect to legal aid within this province.

First, there was Mr. Ted Strange, who is on the board of the Jane-Finch clinic and is the chairman of the Ontario Association of Legal Aid Clinics. With him was Sue Campbell of the Parkdale Community Legal Services clinic, who is secretary of that association, as well as Frederica Rotter who is a board member of the Centre for Spanish Speaking Peoples, Jackie Rankin who is on the board of Scarborough Community Legal Services, and Leslie Robinson who is on the board of Mississauga Community Legal Services.

These five people have been involved with legal aid and its provision over the years. In speaking with them, it was interesting to see how they viewed the problems that the clinics are going to be facing across this province.

Certainly in the past, the legal aid committee has supported the clinic funding committee. Where there have not been enough funds, legal aid went really short on the certificates that were being paid for so that the clinics got the money they needed to carry on their particular duties.

We know that the legal aid system is required, and indeed has a statutory duty, to pay for the certificates that have been issued. But that duty is not there to fund the clinics as such and as a result over the last several years, it has been acknowledged that the work of legal aid clinics would be supported and the funds would be found to make sure the people who most need these services will continue to receive them.

5:20 p.m.

The concern these five persons have in this area is that the restraints which are expected within our society may break this pattern. Certainly the community clinics are now being swamped with all sorts of increases in problems. There is much more unemployment. We well know that as more and more landlords go through the rent review system, the occasion for support and advice to persons who are going through economic problems and are in rented accommodation becomes even greater than it was. Indeed, the 36 clinics referred to in the annual report of the legal aid plan are becoming more and better known, therefore generating the opportunity for people who need assistance to come to those clinics.

It is not likely we are going to see an increase in staff within the legal aid system and it is certainly not likely that we are going to see a large increase in dollars provided for the operation of the clinics. But remember that in these problems we all face because of economic difficulties in our society, the areas which we hope to maintain are the ones which are going to be under the greatest pressure, and the pressure really grows when the economy becomes worse. The pressures are clearly there in the legal aid clinics now.

I hope the acting Attorney General will, through the budgetary procedures available and involved in the creation of the new budget, which we expect by the end of the month, ensure that funds for the clinics will be maintained and for the persons in our society who

need this advice and assistance. Certainly the pressures of the economy fall upon this portion of our system. This is one of the portions which I hope we will be able to maintain.

I well know that every member in this House would like to maintain all of the services now provided in this province. Many of these programs were brought into effect when our economy was somewhat stronger and when funds were readily available so that almost any bright idea brought forward or any area of concern could be readily funded.

We are now going through a change within our society. We talk about the post-industrial age or a variety of other themes and we recognize that not all projects we would wish to see may be fundable. I do suggest in this circumstance that the legal aid clinics are worthy of our continuing concern. Every one of us has individuals coming to our constituency offices or contacting us in some way for which the legal aid system can provide benefits. In northern Ontario, and certainly in parts of western Ontario, there are areas where clinics have not been developed and where they would be of great benefit to people living there. I suggest to you that we may not see many new clinics, but I hope the clinics we have are going to be encouraged and will continue.

The first concern I bring before the minister with respect to this vote is the concern expressed by these persons who spoke with me today in order to ensure that funding for the legal aid clinics will be maintained.

A second concern they have is one with respect to the summer student problem. I suggest to you that while it may be a little peripheral to connect it exactly into this vote, the burden of these cases is going to fall upon the clinics which are being funded through votes like this unless the summer student concern is resolved.

The acting Attorney General will know there are both university clinics and student legal aid societies at the law schools which do maintain, on a voluntary basis, some opportunity for the handling of certificates and dealing with legal aid matters. Both these groups do certain work as volunteers during the school year. In the past there have been summer jobs created for students to handle that caseload that goes on really throughout the whole year, but particularly during this time when volunteers would not be available because the universities would not be in session.

It is my understanding that over the past years

the youth secretariat has funded, through student summer jobs, payments of \$120 to \$130 per week and the Attorney General's ministry has made up an additional \$30 or so, which has allowed for a weekly wage available for students employed in handling these programs.

I now understand that the youth secretariat is not providing funds for student summer jobs in this area. Therefore, if there is to be a continuing program of jobs, it will have to be funded entirely by the Attorney General. Of course, if funds are not provided, then the community clinics are going to get the burden of handling these certificates or dealing with some of these problems while the universities or the student legal aid groups are not available to handle them. If the funds are not provided through the Attorney General, and since apparently they are not to be provided through the youth secretariat, we are going to have a greater burden on the community clinics. That is a concern the members of these clinics have.

Those are two areas I hope the acting Attorney General will be able to give some consideration to as he looks at the budgetary procedures that are going to provide funds for the ongoing programs, which we all believe are worthwhile. The first is to ensure that the clinics do continue, of course. The second is perhaps to deal with this summer program, which I think would be of interest and which I hope the acting Attorney General will take a look at and perhaps report back on later as to whether there are going to be funds, as we hope, to allow those programs to continue.

There is one other area I would like to speak to with respect to this supplementary estimate, and that is to remind the acting Attorney General of discussions we had during the recent estimates of the Attorney General's ministry. Those estimates dealt with, at one point, a paper that had been proposed by the Canadian Bar Association under the heading A Legal Aid Study, dated April 15, 1981, which was a report of the joint subcommittee of civil litigation and family law section of the Ontario branch of the Canadian Bar Association, a report that was made to the legal aid committee of the Law Society of Upper Canada.

When I raised this report and attempted to have some discussion of it in the estimates of the Attorney General, the Attorney General had not seen this report. As a result, I favoured him with a copy of it and I hope there has been some comment or some consideration, even though at this point the legal aid committee of the law

society may not have dealt with it fully or reported on it to the Attorney General. But I hope the acting Attorney General will have an opportunity to look at the various recommendations contained in this report, recommendations that deal with the changes that are suggested in the operation of the legal aid program within the province.

There are 28 recommendations. I will, of course, not take the time of the House to review them as they have been submitted, but I hope some consideration is going on now. Perhaps the acting Attorney General can report to us, or perhaps to me privately later, what progress we may see in dealing with this area.

There are serious conclusions raised in the statements made by this joint subcommittee. They are concerned about the greater bureaucracy that may be developing to have somewhat inflexible administration in the operation of the plan. They are concerned with the fee structure, which has not been changed since 1979, and that too is something I hope we will have the opportunity of discussing further at the time of estimates. They are also concerned with the fact that a not very high percentage of lawyers, members of the law society, are active and involved in the program, which would otherwise be more readily available to the people of our province.

I think the recommendations are worthy of comment, and I did want to take the opportunity today of suggesting that we are looking forward to hearing from the Attorney General at the time of estimates, if not before, as to what progress there may have been with the discussions of these various points with the law society, if those discussions were initiated once the legal aid committee reported to the law society on that study.

5:30 p.m.

As I said at the outset, we are interested in the paying down of the outstanding legal aid certificates and in the shortening of time resulting from the additional funds we see here before us. I do not know whether those moneys are going to continue so that the budget next year is increased from its present \$55 million at least to provide sufficient funds to allow for substantial increases in the legal aid program.

I leave the thought with the acting Attorney General that the pressures on the persons in our society who are having the gravest difficulty will not be met by cutting back on programs such as legal aid. These are the kinds of programs that

must be strengthened so that those who need assistance will be able to receive it readily.

We have a variety of other concerns as we look at the budgetary pressures within our society, but this is one area I commend to the acting Attorney General, to the ministry and indeed to all members of the Legislature as one that is worthy of our continuing support because of the work that is being done and because of the knowledge we all have as individuals within our own constituencies as to the numbers of people who are clearly being helped by this program.

The Deputy Chairman: Before the acting Attorney General responds, I have to do something. It is the first time I have ever done it since I have been the Deputy Chairman. I should have done it more often. It is to compliment the speaker, not necessarily on the content but for at least keeping to the subject at hand. I am most grateful that happened.

Mr. T. P. Reid: You may compliment him on the content as well.

The Deputy Chairman: It is not for me to draw that conclusion but I do appreciate it, when we are dealing with estimates on a certain subject where the minister has said one thing, if you tie your responses to it.

Mr. T. P. Reid: It was purely coincidental.

Mr. Breithaupt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope this will not make a precedent which other members of the House will find impossible to follow.

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Chairman, in response to the position put by the critic for the Liberal Party, I shall also try to restrict my comments to his comments, which will ease the program. I welcome his comments.

I preface my remarks by saying that I am the acting Attorney General. The Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) is ill and cannot perform these services for the House at this time as I am sure he would want to.

Commenting on what has been said by the member for Kitchener (Mr. Breithaupt), I note that the only report that is available right now is the 1981 annual report of the Law Society of Upper Canada which reports on legal aid.

I bring to his attention that for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1981, the total cost of the legal aid plan was \$46.5 million. Ontario contributed approximately \$37 million during the year, an increase of \$7.3 million or 24.6 per cent over 1979-80. That is a substantial increase in legal aid and bears evidence of the support this

government gives to the legal aid program as it is carried out in Ontario.

As to his comment on the funding for clinics, the people he met today also met representatives of the Attorney General's ministry and were assured that consideration would be given to the summer student program within the legal aid clinics in existence at present and that the Attorney General would consider continued funding for this forthcoming summer period.

I wish to draw to his attention that the clinics' budget for the 1980-81 period was some \$4.6 million and, for 1981-82, is going to be \$5.4 million, an increase of about 18 per cent. So there is still ongoing support of the legal aid clinics in this province.

There is also the program to extend those clinics to other areas besides the places where they originated in the metropolitan areas. My own constituency—as well as many other areas around the province, including the northern areas—has put in a legal aid clinic which is thriving.

The member for Kitchener mentioned that some of the lawyers were not participating in the legal aid council. There was a concern that competent counsel were not available. Under the legal aid program, there is a referral system, where a person can indicate some specialities under the legal aid system, as well as a mentor program.

The mentor program is primarily for the criminal certificates where senior leading counsel have made themselves available to provide background and information to younger lawyers so they can conduct their cases with the degree of competence this plan would like them to have and as their clients would like them to have.

The mentor program is an ongoing and newly instituted one and I hope that, along with the other recommendations that have been made to the legal aid plan, the system will be improved. I am sure the Attorney General himself, who has had an ongoing and very definite interest in the legal aid plan, will continue that in the future. Some of the recommendations made in the legal aid study will be put into practice as have previous ones made by other committees and task forces that have studied the legal aid program.

There will be sufficient funding in the legal aid program. This part of the vote is to keep the delay in payment period down to the six- to seven-week period. It is hoped that funding will be available so the delay can be in character

with the government practice of keeping the minimum amount of time between service and payment down to between five- and seven-week periods. Those who are providing services for the government indirectly and who are being paid by the government will receive their payments as quickly as possible.

Those are my comments to the honourable member on his material.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Chairman, I was fascinated by the number of times the minister used the term "primarily for legal aid" in his opening remarks about the supplementary estimate vote. I lost count after the sixth time. Is there some element included in this \$3 million other than the legal aid plan, and if so, what is it?

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Chairman, I heard myself use that word and I knew somebody would pick up on its primary use being "primarily." I should not have used that. It is primarily and exclusively—I put "exclusively" in one of my comments—for the reduction of legal aid certificates and the payment of legal aid certificates.

Mr. Renwick: I am glad you cleared that up. I was concerned that there might be some other tag-in amount that might be used for some other purpose. In order not to destroy the good feeling of the chairman, I will not digress from legal aid to suggest what my concern was.

I will speak briefly, because my colleague has already spoken about the legal aid clinics and so has the acting Attorney General. I want to say that it was on July 6, 1981, that the Attorney General responded to my continuing urgings from the latter part of March to let me know what final amount had been determined for the legal aid clinics; that is, the \$5.4 million the acting Attorney General has spoken about.

I think the estimate that is before us and the comment I have just made indicate one of the serious flaws about the legal aid program; it is behind in the proper availability of funds at the time they are required.

It is my understanding that this \$3 million was included in the original application last year for inclusion in the 1981-82 estimates. For reasons I do not know, it was decided that they would not provide the funds at that time which were designed to alleviate the problem about the catch-up in the payment of solicitors' fees on certificates.

For reasons presumably known only to Management Board of Cabinet, the decision was

made: "No. We will wait, but you can come back at a later time."

5:40 p.m.

What you are doing here is coming back at a later time to solve a problem that existed well over a year ago. To me, that is a fundamental concern. What I would really like to get from the acting Attorney General on the first point I want to make is that the amount of money available to the clinics this year will not be left to be finally determined, notified to the clinic funding committee and through the clinic funding committee to each of the now 40-plus community legal aid clinics some time much later on. They need to know now exactly what their financial position is for the current fiscal year; that is, for the year ending next March.

I want also to emphasize that when you read the report which the acting Attorney General referred to, you get a sense of disquiet about the legal aid plan. I say that because the number of dollars we voted last year for the legal aid plan was identical with the number of dollars voted the year before. Of course, the reason was that there was a substantial adjustment in tariff that was picked up in 1980-81, but in 1981-82 we voted the same amount of money.

In a sense there is a little bit of short-changing going on within the traditional legal aid system; that is, the part of the system based upon the issuance of certificates to individuals in the province to meet their legal requirements when they cannot meet the eligibility requirements of ability to pay.

When I look at a number of factors in that report and see the decrease in the number of contacts with the plan, the decrease in the number of applications made to the plan and the decrease in the number of certificates granted under the plan, I get a concern that somehow or other the restraint program is going through to the system in such a way that people who have very real legal problems are saying: "I cannot get a certificate. There is no point in going and making contact with the Ontario legal aid area office in the area where I live because I know that if I do go, I will be told, 'No, it is not available,' or that I will be hassled to the point where if I press along and make an application, there will be some question whether down the road I will get the certificate to which I am entitled."

I believe, and my sense tells me, that a number of those people have therefore done the alternative of going to the community clinics. The result has been an increase in the burden of

work on the community clinics, of which there are now not enough in the province. I make the point simply again to indicate my serious disquiet about what is happening in the legal aid plan overall as the kind of plan we want to have in the province.

A third area that leads me to disquiet is the immense increase in the obligations and responsibilities of duty counsel in the provincial court's criminal jurisdiction and the provincial court's family jurisdiction. Those statistics indicate that there is a mounting requirement.

A fourth area that is of great concern to me is that I doubt if we are getting the contribution to the Ontario legal aid plan from the federal government that we should be getting with respect to the criminal cases which are dealt with through the legal aid plan and for which there should be a significant and substantial federal contribution.

I may say that many of the disquiets are not matters that come to one out of the blue; they come simply from reading the report, from reading comments by Mr. Chadwick, the chairman of the Ontario legal aid committee, by reading comments that my colleague has referred to of the subcommittee of the Canadian Bar Association and the Ontario branch, dealing with their concerns about the legal aid plan.

But it does seem to me that we are stymied in a sense about new initiatives under the plan. I am wondering—this is one of the things I would like the acting Attorney General to comment on—what is being done about the Burnaby project, what sort of study is being made and whether there is now not a place in Ontario, at least in some areas, for the concept of a public defender under the legal aid plan.

I may say that Mr. Chadwick spoke at some length recently about the Burnaby project and what would come out of that so far as Ontario is concerned: the kind of study that would be made; the kind of evaluation that would take place to determine, in the vexed field of the pros and cons of that concept, whether a public defender aspect to the Ontario legal aid plan should not now be brought about.

I do want to ask a further specific question of the acting Attorney General. I would like to understand, if my understanding is correct, that for the first time—I should not say for the first time; the Attorney General has always appointed two of the five members of the clinic funding committee—he has recently appointed two senior members of the ministry to be his appointees on the clinic funding committee.

I noticed in the press that Douglas Ewart, the director of the ministry's policy development division, and Glenn Carter, the general manager of the Ministry of the Attorney General, have been appointed presumably to take the places of the less high-profile representatives of the minister on the committee; I believe, in place of Michael Fitzpatrick and in place of Noel Ogilvie, although I may not be correct about that.

I would like to know why it is that the clinic funding committee is now going to have these high-profile, important members of the Ministry of the Attorney General on the clinic funding committee, what that means and what it bodes for the clinic funding committee, because it must create a sense of disquiet in the minds of the clinics across the province. There may well be an explanation for it, but I have not seen an adequate explanation of any kind for those appointments.

The other area that is of immense concern—and again the recommendations are set out in the back of the document to which my colleague referred—is the report of the subcommittee of the Ontario section of the bar on the question of the eligibility criteria. I suppose if I had to sort out where my priorities lay in urging the government to look again at the question, it is the question of the criteria for eligibility for assistance under the plan.

Briefly, the sequence has been this: The Ministry of Community and Social Services determined the criteria with great secrecy; they determined criteria which had very little exposure until they were suddenly announced on July 1, 1980. The criteria that were announced at that time caused shock waves through the legal aid system with respect to the eligibility of people for services. The changes that were made were very significant, and the legal aid committee of the Law Society of Upper Canada appointed a committee—the Ellis committee—to review those criteria. The criteria are set out in the document to which my colleague referred, and there is a section of the annual report for 1981 dealing with those criteria.

There are very serious concerns within the profession about the criteria. I draw the minister's attention to page 20, which goes on at some length to talk about what has taken place, particularly the role of the committee under the chairmanship of Professor Ellis, and subsequently make their own comments and then draw the conclusion that the subcommittee is currently reviewing the guidelines in anticipation of

meetings of the task force that will be held in the coming fiscal year. I have not been able to find anything that indicates who are the members of the task force, let alone whether they have already reported or whether they will be reporting.

5:50 p.m.

It is significant that the Ellis committee made what were, for a legal aid committee, some drastic criticisms of the criteria that had been established by the Ministry of Community and Social Services for eligibility into the plan. One need only read the 14 or 15 recommendations of that committee to realize that in their own quiet way they were not pulling any of their punches on what had happened.

I want specifically to itemize one particular factor in their concerns which I share totally and which most lawyers who were in any way related to the clinic system found not only had an impact on the clinic system but also was basically outside the concepts of the original legal aid plan.

The concern was that a person could apply for legal aid and the Ministry of Community and Social Services criteria required those persons with whom the applicant had an association to contribute to legal aid as a condition of getting the certificates. That led to immense difficulties.

I do believe the obligation to contribute by someone else because of a relationship with an applicant for a legal aid certificate for adequate legal representation has no place in the criminal law field. I put it even more starkly than the Ellis committee, but that is only one element of the very serious criticisms that were registered against the Ministry of Community and Social Services criteria.

I know this is not the occasion to have a full, wide-ranging debate about the whole Ontario legal aid plan. What I did want to say, and I think my colleague also wanted to say it, was that there are sufficient concerns and disquiet about the overall plan, and pressures on that plan, and conflicting views of what should take place, without repeating the various headings under which I have made these criticisms of the ministry's role in the plan. When we come to the Ontario legal aid vote in the next estimates of the Ministry of the Attorney General, I think we are going to have to spend time having a very close look at the problems within that plan.

It may very well be that Mr. Justice Osler had the misfortune in 1974 or 1975, when his report came out, to hit a time when it was difficult to

get recommendations passed. It may very well be that there is going to have to be a very close look at the question of the value of the plan, the way it is functioning; the question of the public defender; the question of the eligibility criteria; the question of the whole of the framework that militates against people approaching the plan, rather than having a plan designed to meet people's real needs; and the concern we have as to whether the geographic net of the 40-odd legal clinics across the province is anywhere near adequate to meet the demands of people across the province for the kind of services provided by clinic-funding committees.

My final comment in the give and take of this particular supplementary estimate is that the time has long since passed when we can say to the legal profession that somehow or other this is not a matter of right but a matter of charity and continue to require the deduction of 25 per cent from each bill rendered. We cannot have it both ways. In the traditional way in which the transition took place from the old system into the Ontario legal aid plan, perhaps that made a little sense, but for the period the plan has been in force, which is now some 15 years, we should stop the system by which every account rendered is subject to a 25 per cent deduction.

We should say to the legal profession that the legal aid plan creates rights for people, if they meet proper, appropriate and adequate criteria, for services from the legal profession to be given to them and rendered on the same basis as rendered to anybody else. There should be no element of charity, no element of second-class work involved in the question of a reduced fee of 25 per cent on some residual notion that there is a charitable content under the legal aid plan.

I know there are many other lawyers who would like to argue the whole question of the adequacy of the tariff. I am not competent to argue the adequacy of the tariff, and I do not want to argue its overall adequacy. A number of the points made by the bar in its brief merit and deserve attention, but I am not holding any brief for those points.

The one I think we have to deal with is to create this as a legal plan under which people have rights. We have to get away from this latter-day residual business of some kind of a contribution by the legal profession as a charitable donation to the work of the legal aid plan. It is an important factor because it is always quoted in the report. Lawyers will say they make their contribution. It is only a limited number of lawyers who make the contribution, depending

on whether they provide services under the plan. Many lawyers do not accept legal aid certificates.

If we want to make certain that, to the greatest extent possible, the legal profession has an obligation from the most recent graduate to the most senior member of the bar to participate in the legal aid plan, then at least as a first step we have to get rid of that element of charity and say what we tried to say at the beginning. It is a matter of right. It is a matter not of discretion but of right. That requires one to look closely at the eligibility criteria, because they are the criteria that determine the right.

I do not want to go on at any more length, but I did want to say that the opportunity of this supplementary estimate has given me a chance to express some of the extreme disquiet I have when one looks on an overall perspective. Without criticizing the funds that have been available in the past, when we look at the goals and objectives of the plan to evaluate the plan and to determine what should be done about it,

there are sufficient elements of disquiet both in the profession and in the report.

The strange bureaucratic world of the Ontario legal aid plan involves the Ministry of the Attorney General, the Ministry of Community and Social Services, the Law Society of Upper Canada through its legal aid committee, innumerable subcommittees and, on top of that, amongst other committees, the special committee on clinic funding.

The whole of that overall plan must now be looked at again in a fresh perspective, not from the viewpoint of restraint but from the viewpoint of whether the plan is meeting, in the best possible way, the legal needs of those persons in our society who are not in a position to put the money up front at the very beginning of matters of legal concern to them.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Gregory, the committee of supply reported progress.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

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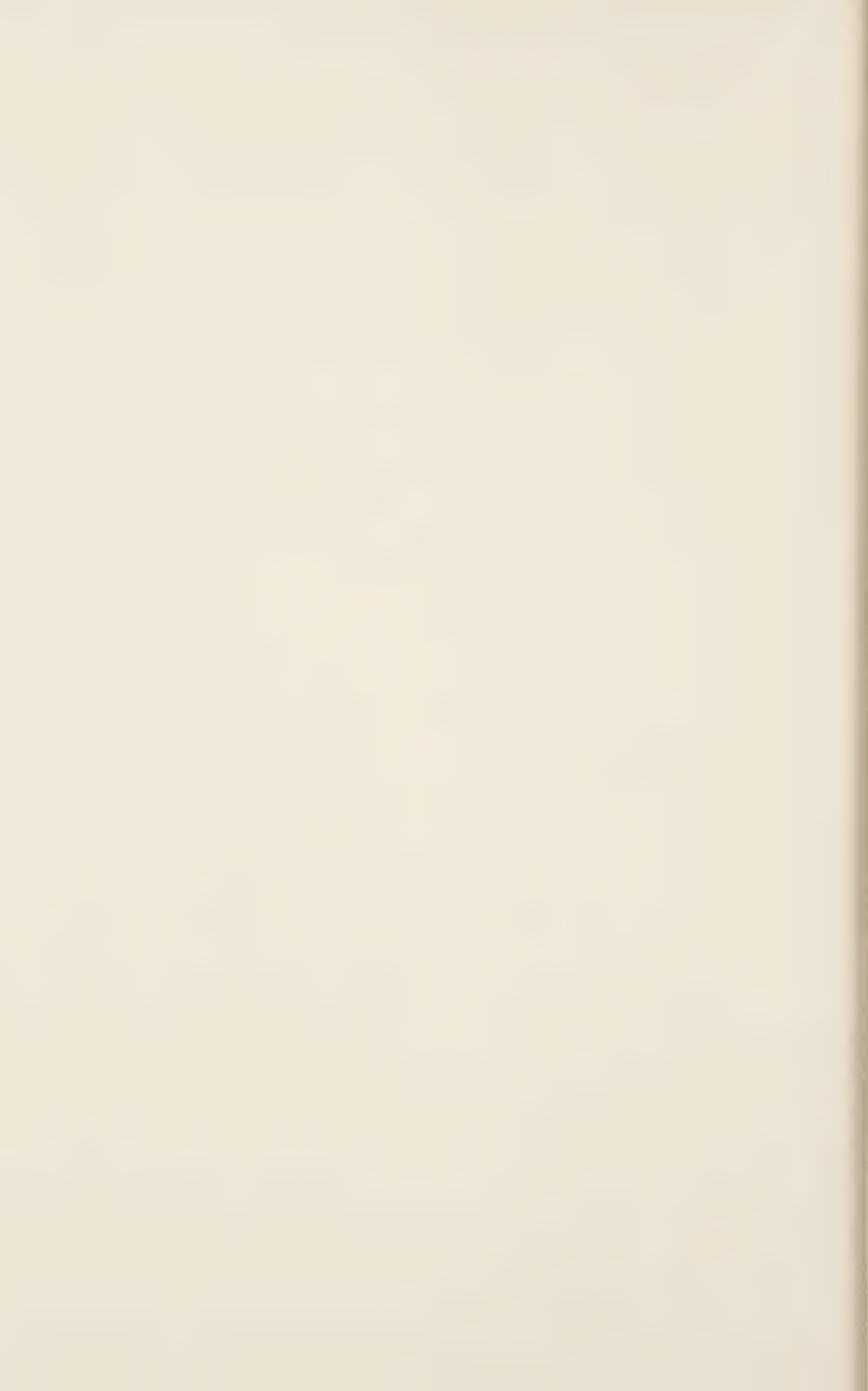
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Ontario

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

No. 18

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)



Second Session, Thirty-Second Parliament

Tuesday, April 6, 1982

Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, April 6, 1982

The House met at 2:03 p.m.

Prayers.

BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY

Mr. Speaker: I beg to inform the House that I have laid upon the table a copy of an order in council appointing the Honourable Robert G. Eaton, Minister without Portfolio, a member of the Board of Internal Economy in place of the Honourable Robert Bruce McCaffrey.

SAFETY OF OFFICE EQUIPMENT

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, I wish to get up on a point of personal privilege. I do not know whether you are aware that the legislative library is in the process of installing an integrated video display terminal system from Geac. Given that 44 persons will be exposed to this system, two of whom are pregnant, will the Speaker take the responsibility of investigating whether any tests similar to those conducted by the University of Waterloo have been carried out on these terminals?

I wonder whether the Speaker can assure the House that there will be a continuing monitoring system of those terminals once the investigation has been carried out.

Also, if the Speaker is investigating those terminals, which have been indicated to be safe according to the contracts signed by the legislative library, I wonder whether he will seek to find out if, in addition to the X-rays from the terminals, there are any other emissions that might be harmful to the personnel that might be working with the terminals.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the suggestion by the member for Waterloo North and to ask that you look into this matter specifically and most urgently if there are pregnant women who are going to be asked to work on those machines, and to rule very quickly that they be relieved of the obligation to do so and receive the possibility of having other work at the same kind of pay they are receiving now, if that is the case.

As you look at that matter, Mr. Speaker, I commend to you both my own private member's bill on this matter and the collective agreement that was struck between the New Democratic

Party caucus here and our caucus staff in terms of the protection of workers operating video display terminals.

Mr. Speaker: I want to thank the member for Waterloo North for bringing this to my attention and the member for Scarborough West for his comments. I assure all members of the House that I will be pleased to look into the matter and report back as quickly as I can.

[Later]

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege that was first raised by the member for Waterloo North: There are two extra things I would like to raise, having to do with the video display terminals that you were asked to look into.

First, I would like to send you a copy of the collective agreement between the New Democratic Party caucus and its staff. Second, I would ask you to look into the situation in room 121 in the north wing of this building where there is a worker who is pregnant and who has been advised by Xerox not to work on a VDT. She is an employee of the Liberal caucus of this Legislature. I will send the member for Waterloo North a copy of our collective agreement so that she might be protected as well.

ORAL QUESTIONS

PHYSICIANS' SERVICES

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, there are rather slim pickings here this afternoon, with two or three notable exceptions.

Mr. Nixon: Yes, the member for Stormont-Dundas-Glengarry (Mr. Villeneuve) is here.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: The Leader of the Opposition has the floor.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Health. In the light of recent press reports that more doctors are taking at least preliminary steps to opt out of medicare—and I refer him to reports of the Orillia situation, for example, where it was reported last week that as a result of the impasse in negotiations another 18 doctors are considering opting out of Ontario health insurance plan,

which would raise the level of opted-out physicians to some 66 per cent in that community—will the minister tell this House what steps he is prepared to take to make sure that every citizen in Ontario continues to have access to physicians' services at opted-in rates?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I am relying upon the agreement reached between the Ontario government and the Ontario Medical Association some time ago whereby the OMA assured us there would be opted-in services available to every resident of this province. I take them at their word, and I am sure they will honour that undertaking.

Mr. Peterson: I am sure the minister is aware of certain statements, and I quote Dr. Ivan Elkan, president of the Toronto East Medical Society, who said in the context of the present dispute: "On an individual basis, I would not be surprised to see a large number of doctors opting out. That's one weapon that we do have."

What level of opting out is the minister prepared to tolerate and what is he going to do about it if it gets out of hand?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: As I have indicated on earlier days in this House, a level of opting out that begins to threaten the accessibility to our system of all residents of this province is the unacceptable level. When we reach the point at which all residents of this province cannot get opted-in services somewhere in their own community from a physician, then it will be at an intolerable level.

I am still confident that to solve what I hope will be a short-term problem, doctors will not choose to go the route of opting out in large numbers, because that will have rather Draconian results and implications for the entire health care system.

In order to make my answer absolutely clear, there is no magic number. My measure is not numbers; my measure is accessibility. When patients cannot get opted-in services and opted-in physicians treating them, then there is a problem, and in that case I will look to the OMA to honour their clear agreement with this government.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, in addition to the matter raised by the Leader of the Opposition, the new doctors opted out in Orillia and obviously the threat of yet more doctors opting out, there is also the threat reported in the papers that there will be five days of rotating strikes by doctors in North Peel and four days of

rotating strikes by doctors in the St. Thomas area.

The evidence is clear that the minister's generosity has bought him nothing but additional trouble from the Ontario Medical Association. How much more trouble does he intend to take before he starts to act and protect the integrity of our medical care system?

2:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, at present the situation is largely composed of threats. The physicians in this province are faced with the choice of accepting \$12,000 increases in their incomes, plus the government's open offer to resume discussions at any time the OMA requests. In those circumstances, a vast majority of doctors will be saying: "Yes, let us not take these kinds of steps. Let us instead resume negotiation."

I might say to my honourable friend the critic for the New Democratic Party that the NDP expressed its concern over rotating strikes throughout the province and asked what we would do. I could not help but be somewhat—I should not say amused—interested to read the comments made by the then leader of the NDP, who said as long ago as February 7 that doctors should be allowed to strike for higher fees.

I presume that remains the position of the NDP. If members of that party believe doctors should be allowed to strike for higher fees as their then leader believed, then the member's remarks should be framed in the context of trying to protect what he and his colleagues think is the doctors' right to strike.

As I indicated in my statement, I disagree with the NDP. I do not think the doctors have the right to threaten our health care system by withdrawing services. We, unlike the NDP, will take appropriate steps in the event the health care system of this province is threatened in any way.

Mr. Peterson: Will the minister inform this House whether his assurances with respect to access to health care apply to all specialties in all areas and if he is prepared to make those same assurances?

How does the minister know the doctors will live up to that agreement when they feel he has unilaterally imposed his point of view on them? At one o'clock today, Dr. Moran told a member of my staff that there have been no contacts with the Ministry of Health since March 31, except the minister's statements to the media. The minister is obviously not negotiating. How can

he be assured they will live up to their side of the bargain from a previously arrived at decision?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I happen to trust the OMA. When they enter into an agreement with this government that they will ensure opted-in services are provided to all patients in this province, I am sure they will honour that agreement notwithstanding the current difficulties we are facing over the OHIP schedule of benefits. I take them at their word; the Leader of the Opposition may not.

Mr. Peterson: Too bad it is not mutual.

TAX GRANTS FOR SENIORS

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Revenue. The minister will be aware that the cost of administering seniors' tax credits by the federal government in 1979 was \$2.7 million. This year the cost of administering the seniors' tax grants is \$10.87 million. Roughly five times the previous amount is going out by way of administrative expenditures by this government.

How does the minister justify this five times extra expenditure on a program that is not yielding any more results to most people in this province?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Speaker, everyone is welcome to his own opinion as to whether the program is delivering more benefits to more people in Ontario.

The statistics show there are considerably more people in Ontario receiving more benefits than under the old program. Important from a delivery perspective, they are being delivered their benefits sooner than they were under the income tax system. They are getting them in the same year rather than in the following year. They are getting them, believe it or not, faster and with fewer errors—and I know that will be challenged—than they were under the income tax system.

If any members, particularly members of the second party across there, want to challenge that statistic, I suggest they check with their colleagues in Ottawa to see what the error rate is and was on income tax forms filed by seniors prior to and since the property tax grant.

Regardless of the number of errors we have had, and I have acknowledged in the past and will acknowledge now that we have some, the members opposite will find the actual number of errors by seniors in the completion of the income tax forms has been reduced substantially. They are much easier for seniors to complete.

There is no doubt at all that we have been able to eliminate the necessity of filing income tax forms for a great number of seniors in the province. I think that in itself is a very important change in the delivery system of a very important benefit to seniors in Ontario.

Mr. Peterson: I do not understand how the minister can justify this \$8.8-million additional expenditure, unless it is an expenditure for political visibility only, when \$1.4 million is going on advertising and another \$429,000 in telephone expenditures. When so many ministers are crying out for money and when there are so many badly needed programs going underfunded in the province, how can this minister justify that additional \$8.8 million in administrative expense?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: There is not an additional \$8.8 million strictly under the heading of administration, and the Leader of the Opposition knows that. There are many parts of a new program that are nonrecurring. For example, we will not be doing the same degree of advertising this year as we did in the past two years, for obvious reasons.

Mr. Ruston: That means there is no election. Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: That's fine; they are using up the clock.

It is too bad the members opposite did not realize that last year the election was on March 19. If they want to see when our advertising budget was spent during the past fiscal year, which only started on April 1, they would see it had nothing to do with the election. It happened to be the second year of a program that was not mature in nature. It happened to be the first year of the program in which the delivery of the benefits was split. In other words, an interim grant was made in the spring of 1981 followed by the final grant, and the advertising was quite justified to inform the seniors about the plan itself.

Believe it or not, I have had a few letters from members opposite suggesting that we are doing nothing to advertise to and contact seniors who may never have applied for the grant. They had better get their act together and be consistent.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister how come last year he got the grants out by a target date, which I think was around March 19, and this year he does not seem to give a damn about a target date. Why is that?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Speaker, if ever there was an irresponsible use of a date statistic, that has to be it. Obviously the honourable member did not research that statement before he made it off the cuff. If he looked into it he would find that once again last year, as in the advertising budget, the interim grant cheques went well beyond the date of March 19. They were sent out on April 6, one year ago today, well beyond the realities of the March 19 date the members opposite are fond of using. It had nothing to do with the election; there is no doubt one of the reasons they were not out earlier was that we did not want to influence the electorate in any way whatsoever.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: We sent it out on April 6 at my direction and my instruction. There is no doubt it is a little later; the interim cheques will be going out just a little less than five weeks later. Specifically, our target date is May 10. The reason we are doing it is to make sure we have updated all our base data and incorporated all the changes that are regularly fed into our system. Last year we had a 97 per cent accuracy rate; this year we want 99.9 per cent.

2:20 p.m.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, the minister will be aware that in answer to my inquiry he said a second application form was not sent automatically to those seniors who did not return the original application.

Why is it that this government has done nothing about the 25,000 seniors who have not returned their applications? He knows full well that most of those seniors are probably in the lower-income brackets, since wealthier citizens have rarely missed any tax advantage.

Why is he not trying to find out who these 25,000 seniors across the province are, since they are very likely the ones who are most in need of financial assistance?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Speaker, there is the inconsistency again. One of the reasons for advertising was to make sure that people were aware of the program. On the other side of the coin, if we once again contact all of these people and send out new applications, we would be criticized for increasing the administration costs. Let us be consistent.

When we become aware, through any way, of seniors who have not applied and should have, we get back to them again and find out what happened. Did they lose it, did they destroy it or did they misunderstand it? Believe it or not, we

have had seniors to whom we have sent out a second application and it has not come back. As a matter of fact, in those cases, we are following them up individually to see what happened the second time. In most cases they have been generated because of a client inquiry or through a member in some instances. So we are following up on them.

I think it is completely realistic that the numbers are down. There are a group of people who are no longer with us to apply, and obviously that is why the applications did not come back. Also there is no doubt that in 1980 there was an abundance of applications that ended up being for nonqualified people. During 1982, the second year of the program, obviously the applications are a little more sophisticated and so are the applicants.

USE OF STRIKEBREAKERS

Mr. Foulds: I have a new question, Mr. Speaker; I have just two—

Mr. Havrot: Look at the tan.

Mr. Wrye: Sunny Jim.

Mr. Foulds: Just a living advertisement for the benefits of solar power.

Mr. Ruston: Sunny south.

Mr. Bradley: How are things in Cuba?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Foulds: In spite of the heckling I have a question, Mr. Speaker, that I dreamed up in the independent country of Antigua which has, by the way, a Labour Party government. I would like to ask the Minister of Colleges and Universities—

Mr. T. P. Reid: Why didn't you just stay in paradise?

Mr. Foulds: Oh, jealousy will get you nowhere.

My question is about one of the ministry's agencies which the government has funded to the tune of more than \$5 million last year, the Ontario College of Art. I wonder whether the minister is aware that this body apparently hired Securicor Investigation and Security Ltd. on March 26, just four days prior to the present strike by Local 576 of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union.

In view of the answer by the Solicitor General (Mr. G. W. Taylor) yesterday and his commitment to broaden the Ontario Provincial Police investigation into Securicor's activities, will the minister welcome a broadening of the OPP investigation into Securicor's activities with regard to the strike at OCA?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, if I can just overcome my envy of the gorgeous tan that the honourable member is sporting as a result of his lolling in the sun of southern islands while the rest of us were here slaving away—

An hon. member: There are some advantages to being in the opposition, you know.

Mr. Speaker: Having said that—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am aware that on March 26, without knowledge of the problems that have been raised related to that security firm, OCA did hire the firm. I wish to report to the member that I am in strong support of anything which the Solicitor General suggests in terms of investigation, but I also want the member to know that last night, at the board meeting, OCA discharged that firm from their employ.

Mr. Foulds: Can the minister confirm that the Securicor firm has been discharged? Our information is that half an hour ago Securicor was still on the job. Is the minister aware that the firm had engaged in harassment of the workers and surveillance of the workers back and forth to their homes? Can she tell us who took the decision to pay taxpayers' money to this firm and how much it was paid?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am sorry I cannot provide that detailed information, which I think would be more appropriately a question on the Order Paper, but I can tell the member that the decision was taken by the board last evening to discharge Securicor. I am sure that is in the process of being carried out.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, is the minister aware that the one central issue in the strike is the right to grieve unjust dismissal—a fundamental right in most agreements? Given that this was the issue of the strike, what possible justification was there for hiring Securicor in this situation in the first place? Given that the issue is such a fundamental one, does the minister not think she could put a little pressure on to see that the strike is settled very quickly?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I am aware of some of the issues involved in that strike, including the fact that I gather a significant number of those on strike are students at the Ontario College of Art, who function part-time as both models and monitors within the program. I am not aware of the grievance procedure being the only significant issue within the dispute that is going on. I shall make it my business to investigate more fully the list of issues that seem to be outstanding.

CHEMICAL SPILL

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Norton), I would like to place a question to the Solicitor General as the minister responsible for public safety and spills—chemical spills and otherwise.

With regard to the Junction triangle area and the spill at Bloor and Lansdowne, has the government yet ascertained the source of the spill? Are chemicals still being discharged? Has the ministry found the violator? What steps are planned to protect the residents of the area from any possible danger?

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, if I might direct the member's question to the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development, he has that answer. I believe he received it from the Ministry of the Environment and would like to answer that question on my behalf.

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, at 4:58 a.m. the Toronto fire department phoned the Ministry of the Environment to report a chemical odour in the Junction triangle area of Toronto. Our duty officer then phoned Mr. Leo Butko of the Environment staff, who moved on site early this morning. There are now two MOE staff, Mr. Butko and Mr. Haldane, on site as well as the Metro police and Toronto fire department.

At 7:30, it was agreed to recommend the closure of the nearby Perth Avenue School until the Ministry of Labour advised otherwise. The fire department tested for explosive properties, and the levels are well below explosive capacity.

The odour problem appears to have passed, but MOE is sending two mobile air monitoring units from our air resources branch to the site. We are checking with the two industries in the area possibly responsible through a chemical leak, these being Nacan Products Ltd. and Glidden Co. Ltd.

The Minister of the Environment is in his home riding today for the funeral of the wife of former member Syl Apps this afternoon. He will be back Thursday and will be glad to answer further questions on this item.

2:30 p.m.

Mr. Foulds: Can the provincial secretary tell us now, or make sure the Minister of the Environment tells us on Thursday, whether the government is examining the possibility that this was an intentional discharge that got out of control—because I understand there are allowable intentional discharges according to Metro and city bylaws—or whether it was an entirely

accidental discharge? Also, is the ministry not aware that there are more than two possible sources of the discharge?

Finally, is the government aware that Ministry of the Environment officials are telling residents of the area at this time that they still do not know any source and that they cannot tell the residents any action they should take to protect themselves until tomorrow? What is the government going to do to protect the residents from any possible hazards?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: While the minister will answer fully on Thursday, I have just spoken with the staff of the ministry and there is no guarantee that it came from either of the plants I have named. There is no guarantee that somebody did not take a load of something and dump it in the sewers there. We think it is these two plants, but the Ministry of the Environment staff are on the site and conducting tests.

There is no danger at the moment. This morning the fire department did flush what we believe is the dangerous material down the sewers. We do not believe there is a danger, but we have staff there and the Metropolitan Toronto Police are there as well.

Mr. Foulds: Have people been sent to the hospital?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: I can't hear you.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think you have already answered the question.

Mr. Ruprecht: Mr. Speaker, I am the member for this area, and I think the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development knows full well that while the potential violations of this spill could be handled under the Environmental Protection Act they could be more adequately handled by the spills bill, which received third reading in December 1979 and yet 28 months later still has not been proclaimed. Can the minister explain why the spills bill has not yet been proclaimed and when this bill, which was designed for incidents such as this, will be proclaimed?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, I will refer that question to the minister. He will be glad to answer fully when he is here on Thursday.

Mr. Charlton: Mr. Speaker, according to one of the staff members of the Ministry of the Environment on the scene, one of the chemicals released into the sewers is vinyl acetate, a very flammable substance. According to the city of Toronto bylaws that allow for periodic discharges into the sewer system, no flammables

are permitted to be discharged even in periodic small discharges.

Will the minister see that the Ministry of the Environment investigates in this case why a flammable substance such as vinyl acetate had access to the sewer system, which is supposed to be precluded under the bylaws?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, I think I answered that in my original answer. I made it quite clear that we know there is something there that is not legal and not acceptable. The fire department flushed it down. Two members of the staff of the Ministry of the Environment are on standby, and the Metropolitan Toronto Police are there. If it can be found that somebody did it deliberately, there certainly will be prosecutions.

FOOD INDUSTRY PRACTICES

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Elgie), I wish to direct my question to the Provincial Secretary for Justice.

Is the minister aware that Dominion Stores Ltd. and Steinberg Inc. have recently combined their buying clout through the formation of a buying group known as Volume One, whose only purpose is to extract greater discounts and allowances from food suppliers? Is the minister concerned about this rapid concentration of buying power among the major chains that have all formed buying groups, which, through the decline of competition in this area, will eventually lead to higher food costs to consumers and a reduction in food suppliers?

What action is the minister taking to monitor this situation? Will he assure us that appropriate legislation will be introduced, such as we in the Liberal Party and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture have proposed, to protect the producers and small processors and grocers in the province from unfair trading practices?

Hon. Mr. Sterling: Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I am not aware of the merger except through the newspaper accounts this morning and I cannot answer on behalf of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. I will forward the question to him. I am certain he is concerned about the matter. However, I cannot answer in terms of the remedial action he might take.

Mr. Riddell: I feel this is an issue the government is certainly going to have to come to grips with. It just cannot continue. Can the minister indicate to us what specific action has

been taken concerning the recommendations contained in the report of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Discounting and Allowances in the Food Industry in Ontario, since he and his colleagues have surely had time to study this \$500,000 report of 1980 by now?

Why has the watchdog mechanism to monitor discounting practices, as was recommended in the report, not been established? Why has the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations not taken on the task of policing trade practices in the food industry, which task was to have been transferred from the Ontario Food Council when it was disbanded in 1978? Is the minister not aware that food suppliers are in a worse situation today than when that inquiry was established back in 1980?

Hon. Mr. Sterling: As I indicated before, the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations is unfortunately away from the Legislature this afternoon. In fact, he is at a funeral. I did receive a copy of a letter he had written to the federal Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs very recently, asking him to look into the matter in terms of whether the action contravenes the Combines Investigation Act and to report to him on that. Unfortunately I cannot respond to the member's question in relation to the previous report. I will pass that along to the minister.

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, when the Provincial Secretary for Justice looks into this matter, either on his own or in conjunction with the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, will he take steps to do something about the royal commission report? The Ontario Federation of Agriculture suggested to the government that the report should not even be accepted because it was so totally inadequate, and the thing drifted into limbo and nothing has happened over a two-year period.

Will the provincial secretary take the initiative in terms of a policy enunciation to establish at the provincial level something in the unfair business practices area that will come to grips with the discounts and allowances, since the royal commission and all previous efforts have been totally abortive in coming to grips with this problem?

Hon. Mr. Sterling: Mr. Speaker, I will certainly be glad to bring this to the attention of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. I am certain that, as expressed by his letter, he is concerned about this particular situation. The minister has held that particular

portfolio for only a short period of time. He will, of course, as a result of the member's question, look into this matter and report to him.

MENTAL HEALTH CARE

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health (Mr Grossman). If he has left, I will direct it to the Provincial Secretary for Social Development. Is she aware that the body of the woman found on the beach of Lake Ontario was identified this morning as that of Margaret Daniel, the patient who has been missing from the Whitby Psychiatric Hospital since March 15? After this fourth death in a year and a half, can the minister now assure us a full public inquiry will take place into problems within the mental health care system in this province?

2:40 p.m.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Mr. Speaker, the latest knowledge I have is that the body of the woman has not been identified and that they are awaiting some dental checks to be done later today. I have no further information on the identification of that body.

Mr. McClellan: Since we are informed by the coroner that the identification has been positively made, surely the minister will agree that, rather than look at the problems a death at a time, inquest by inquest, we should put a halt to this procedure and immediately commission a full, independent public inquiry that can focus the best minds available in the mental health community on the obviously serious, critical problems in our provincial mental health care system?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: I think the member will agree there are many areas of concern to the government in the mental health field. We are attempting to address those concerns in many different ways in regard to the Queen Street Mental Health Centre situation, Whitby Psychiatric Hospital and the mental health system in Ontario in general.

We are all concerned when situations like this occur, but I think the honourable member will agree that, no matter how excellent the system is, we will unfortunately always have tragedies such as the one that has just occurred.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, we now have evidence of a confirmed fourth victim, indicating again the tragedy that is taking place daily in our troubled mental health care system. Since the minister is not prepared to accept the advice of the member for Bellwoods and commission a

public inquiry into this disaster area, what specifically is she going to tell this House and the people of Ontario she is going to do, as the senior policy secretary for the social development field, to give effect to this wide, sweeping and platitudinous concern she has yet again drawn to our attention?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Mr. Speaker, I think the honourable member is making a lot of assumptions that are not necessarily true. I would like to point out to him again that, no matter how excellent the system is, the very nature of the problems these people have make it impossible to ensure no one is going to commit suicide and that tragedies are not going to occur. I think he should be more realistic about the situation. Of course we are concerned and of course we will try to remedy the situation as best we can and in the best way humanly possible, but I am not going to suggest we will be able to prevent everyone in this province from committing suicide.

GREAT LAKES FOREST AGREEMENT

Mr. J. A. Reed: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources concerning the three-year saga of the government's mediation process with the Whitedog Indian band regarding mercury health claims.

As the minister will recall, the province agreed in 1979 to assume liabilities in excess of \$15 million against Great Lakes Paper Co. for environmental damage caused by mercury. He will also recall the province revised its position but finally clarified it on February 9, 1982, 38 months after mediation began.

Would the minister indicate why Great Lakes has now refused to meet with the negotiators for the Indian band, arguing it cannot make an offer because of the inadequacies of its internal purchase agreement with Reed Ltd.? Is it true that the Great Lakes private agreement with Reed to share the first \$15 million of liabilities is enforceable only by a court decision and not through a voluntary mediation settlement?

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, the last part of the question is difficult to assess. In terms of the enforceability of the memorandum of understanding and the actions of the parties pursuant to it since the time of its signature, there is a presumption of it being a binding contract and we would presume legal steps would not have to be taken to enforce compliance under the terms of the memorandum of agreement.

Unfortunately I am not able to help the member with respect to the time frame. I am not

in charge of the negotiations on behalf of the province nor have I been directly involved in the meetings that have taken place. I think the chairman of the resources development policy field has been involved in that and may be able to assist the member. I do know it has been a protracted negotiation session. There has been about—

Mr. Kerrio: It is a sellout.

Hon. Mr. Pope: No, it is not a sellout at all. A number of resource allocation issues have been involved in that process and our staff have been involved in giving advice to the negotiating team. A lot of those issues have been resolved. We started off with some 30 issues that had to be resolved with respect to financial matters and resource allocation matters. Most of them have been resolved.

With respect to the status of the memorandum of understanding and the payment of the \$15 million, some of those matters would be before the minister who has been in charge of those negotiations. I really could not assist the member with any accuracy.

Mr. J. A. Reed: I am astounded the Minister of Natural Resources is not closely involved with this issue. The whole thing involves Natural Resources. Could I redirect a supplementary to the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development?

Mr. Speaker: No.

Mr. J. A. Reed: All right. I will ask my supplementary of the minister. Hopefully he will be able to answer and be apprised of at least part of the issue.

The federal government has now settled with the Whitedog band and Ontario Hydro has reached a settlement that will be signed in the next two weeks. We are now in the 39th month of the mediation process. Why is the province now arguing that it has no legal responsibility, when it knows its responsibility is a moral one in the mercury pollution process? Why is it refusing to make any financial contribution to the Indian band? Why does the province not settle with the band on the four major outstanding issues that still need to be negotiated?

Hon. Mr. Pope: We have been trying to resolve all the outstanding issues. I indicated there is a long list of issues. A lot of the settlements the member just discussed with respect to the federal government and Ontario Hydro came about through the provincial government's interventions on some of the agreements it was a party to.

Mr. J. A. Reed: Why is the minister hanging back?

Hon. Mr. Pope: No, we are not hanging back. We are attempting to resolve the issues as we have been all along. It is very difficult. We are working as hard as we can and have been working very hard for the last year to try to wrap it up.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, surely the Minister of Natural Resources will agree he has substantial leverage when dealing with the pulp and paper companies in northwestern Ontario or anywhere else in Ontario? Is he not prepared to use that leverage to make sure justice is done?

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, we have been trying to assure justice is done both through this process and through other processes we have been involved with in the council organizations in northwestern Ontario and through all of northern Ontario. We have been using all the influence we can exert in order to try to bring about a settlement of the matter.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Order.

Mr. Renwick: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: Will the Deputy Premier advise the Premier (Mr. Davis) that he undertook to the House on March 29 to answer the questions put by the member, and the supplementaries which were put, as a result of a question I asked on this very topic?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to communicate that request to the Premier. However, the minister responsible for these negotiations is the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development. If the member would like some information my colleague is prepared to share it with him and the House even this afternoon.

2:50 p.m.

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Community and Social Services, regarding mental health services for children in the province and specifically for francophone children.

Last year I raised the concern about Ontario children being cared for in the Maison Rouyn in Quebec because we do not have suitable facilities in Ontario. Is the minister aware that this

year there are still 25 Franco-Ontarian children, 19 from northeastern Ontario, in that facility? Those kids are there for between two and two and a half years because they are very severely disturbed.

Will he commit funds in Ontario for long-term mental health care for French-speaking children in northeastern Ontario? Will he take part of that 19 per cent that he promised and put it into children's mental health centres in northeastern Ontario for severely disturbed children?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, first of all, I already have. A new children's mental health centre which offers bilingual services opened on March 31 of this year in North Bay.

Second, in the area represented by the Liberal critic, in eastern Ontario, I already have opened the first children's mental health centre for francophones. That is in direct relation to the member's question because he was talking about children being sent to a very excellent, I may say, facility in Quebec.

I notice the member did not ask me when the eastern Ontario population was going to disappear from there. We are very hopeful, with the steps we are taking in eastern Ontario, we can remove the eastern Ontario population from there.

In regard to northeastern Ontario, as the member knows, there is a shortage in this province of professional people for the treatment of francophone children with mental health disabilities. I am prepared to put money into the area to attract professional staff and it will only be when there is professional staff there that we can really begin to treat in the area.

In the meantime, we would be extremely foolish to not send children from Cochrane South and so forth over to Rouyn rather than bring them down to Sudbury.

As the honourable member knows, I wanted to start—and so did a community group want to start—the very beginnings of something in the Timmins area particularly, a multi-purpose centre. As he knows, we were run out of town. There is a limit to what the minister can really do in making a beginning when the community is so hostile that it will not give us a place.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: First, to dispel some of the notion that the minister has provided an answer to the problem with the Nipissing centre, let it be clear that the Nipissing centre is an outpatient facility that is not dealing with severely disturbed children. In fact, there are 90

kids already on their list and at their maximum capacity they will be able to deal with only 50, as the minister well knows. It is no answer.

M. Jacques Turgeon, director of the Maison Rouyn, has heard nothing about what is going to happen to the kids from eastern Ontario, so I will wait to hear from the minister when that is actually in place.

Is the minister aware, as he has just indicated he was, that there are no French group homes in the Timmins area? There is one child in a supposedly bilingual group home in that area. Is he aware that M. Turgeon of the Maison Rouyn wants to establish a group home in the Timmins area for kids coming out of Maison Rouyn to re-establish them in the community? He has asked to meet with the minister's officials next week.

What is the minister's position on that? Will he be supporting the establishment of a group home sponsored by the Maison Rouyn; or will he be moving to bring into northeastern Ontario the kind of facilities that should be established there, that is long-term care in Ontario for Ontario kids?

Hon. Mr. Drea: It is a very interesting question. If I say yes to either one I am damned and if I say no to either one I am damned. The member is not quite as smart as he thinks he is.

I would be absolutely delighted to look at using the outreach services of that particular children's mental health centre in Quebec. It would be interesting to have a look at that, but it would be on the basis that we do intend to build our own, or to arrange our own over the long term.

If we could take advantage for a period of time of the professional capabilities—and they certainly have them in the centre at Rouyn because it is a prime resource and it is close—I would be a fool not to, but I will say that we have to establish, one way or the other, professional residential services in northeastern Ontario. I intend to do it.

Mr. Foulds: When?

Hon. Mr. Drea: With the member's charming little thing about the Nipissing centre, the name of the game—and it was invented by the party opposite—was why were we not into more prevention, more early detection, more nonresidential and more home care? Now the member sits here today and sneers at what is going on in the Nipissing centre.

TORONTO WESTERN HOSPITAL

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of

the Minister of Health. The executive director of the Toronto Western Hospital told the Liberal health committee last Wednesday that a woman outpatient, suffering a potential suspected breast tumour, could have to wait up to three months before she could even undergo exploratory surgery in his hospital. Does the minister feel that this time lapse, attributed to bed shortages and lack of equipment, is acceptable?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I do not know the particulars of that case, obviously, but as I am sure the new critic has learned by now, if there is a medically necessary procedure the hospitals operate in such a fashion, particularly an esteemed hospital such as the Toronto Western Hospital, that any medically necessary procedure will be done immediately. The member knows that.

Ms. Copps: I am surprised the minister does not have the details of that particular incident since he had somebody from the Ministry of Health monitoring all our hearings that day.

I am sure if the minister goes back to his representative from the Ministry of Health he will be able to read from his verbatim notes that the director also said that in some instances the delay could mean the difference between saving a breast and having a mastectomy. He also agreed it may mean the difference between life and death. Does the minister feel this situation is acceptable? If not, what is he going to do about it?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Since I do not have the verbatim details of whatever happened at the member's committee meeting, may I say that the administrator of that hospital, Mr. McAulay, who is well known to the medical community and very esteemed, I am absolutely sure would not have held out to the member that it was a reality that someone who needed medical attention was not getting it and could not get it because of a bed shortage. He runs his hospital in such a way that it is renowned, not only throughout Ontario but throughout North America, as a well run hospital.

I have no problem in saying there is no chance that anyone who needed attention immediately, and who was running a severe risk of serious disease or death in the event medical attention was not provided immediately, would not get that attention. That is not the way the system works. That administrator particularly, and most of our administrators throughout this province,

and all of our physicians I might add, under any circumstances would not allow that to happen. That is not the way the system works.

Appropriate provision is made in that hospital and in other hospitals to make sure that emergency cases, medically necessary cases, are admitted and treated and that is done exactly when and where the physician says it is needed. That is simply the case.

Ms. Copps: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: If the minister is implying that I am misleading this House I would ask that he withdraw his statement because I have Mr. McAulay on tape.

3 p.m.

PLANT SHUTDOWNS

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Labour. Is he aware that SCM (Canada) Ltd. will lay off, in May, 150 workers at its Scarborough typewriter plant? He must be aware that the decision was made and announced in the United States. He must be aware that this confirms once again the general deindustrialization going on in Ontario and the shift in Ontario from production to warehousing.

Given that situation, what is the minister going to do to protect these jobs and keep the production in Ontario rather than exporting jobs and importing typewriters?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the situation the member for Hamilton East has brought to our attention this afternoon. It is a very weighty question. It is a circumstance that runs parallel to the severe economic decline this country is experiencing at this time. I do not think we are going to see too much improvement until the economy improves. We are hoping that will be some time towards the end of this year.

Mr. Mackenzie: Surely the minister must be aware that wiping out our deficit in the typewriter trade alone in Ontario would be more than sufficient to protect these jobs. Will he now help to establish a justification process to make foreign companies like SCM publicly justify their arbitrary decision to shift production out of Canada to the United States?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: The ministry has no plans at this time to initiate a justification process.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, given the continuing export of jobs from Ontario into the United States and given the loss of employment to workers, will the minister—I believe he was a

member of the select committee on plant shutdowns and employee adjustment—urge his cabinet colleagues to support a reintroduction of the select committee at the earliest possible opportunity so we may look at what policy options are open to Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: It is true I was a member of that committee, and I felt it did some very useful and worthwhile work, not because I was a member of the committee but because of the findings the committee presented. The Ministry of Labour did act on some of the recommendations that were made then.

That time was probably one of the most traumatic two months of my experience in that there were some terrible stories and illustrations brought before the committee. I say this not to embarrass the member for Hamilton East but to his credit: I can remember on one occasion, when a particularly sad circumstance was brought to our attention, I looked over and the honourable member had genuine tears in his eyes. I know there were others of us around the table who felt much the same way.

The point I am trying to make is that it does not take another plant closure committee, it does not take another two months of illustrations such as we had last time, to convince me or anybody else in this government of the problem. We know what the problem is. We have to find solutions for the problem.

FOREST UTILIZATION

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Natural Resources. In view of the statement made by the minister on March 12 regarding the establishment of a committee to examine forest utilization practices in the industry in Ontario, surely the minister is aware of the in-house committee on wasteful practices, a committee of his ministry established in 1978 because of the concerns of his own ministry foresters. Surely the minister is aware that many of the topics listed for study in his release of March 12 are the same topics as were studied by that in-house committee.

First, will the minister release that in-house committee report from the study of 1978; second, how much longer does he have to study utilization practices and wasteful practices before he acts on them?

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, we have acted on wasteful practices. We have acted on utilization. If the honourable member had taken the time to go through the forest management agreement process and the forest management

agreements that had been executed and the impact in terms of utilization in both the short term and the long term and the protection for sensitive environmental concerns; if he had taken the time to look at the hybrid poplar program and its impact on utilization and the research work we are doing to lead the world in fast-growing species, including hardwoods and their effect on utilization, the member would be quite confident that all of those activities dovetail with an out-of-house program that is now going on to examine wasteful practices. Additional utilization applications in the field will give effect to the very work we have been doing.

Mr. Van Horne: The minister very artfully dodged the question, which was, will he release the report? He has not answered that question. Is he going to leave the schedule of charges unchanged, as it has been since 1952, until he finishes this new study? And what about the first question? Is he going to release the in-house report?

Hon. Mr. Pope: If I am having people look at the whole area, why would I change the level of charges before they have even looked at it?

The answer to the first part of the question is that as soon as we establish some changes in policies, we will release them to the members and provide any information we can.

Mr. Speaker: Final supplementary; the member for Rainy River.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: No, no, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, the minister—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Nickel Belt.

Mr. Kerrio: He wasn't up quick enough.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, he was. I just didn't see him.

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, some of us have read the forest management agreements; so I do not think the minister should use that argument on us.

I assume the minister is familiar with the report from Lakehead University which said: "If sustained yield exploitation of the forest resource is the goal of the people of Ontario, the existing demand-supply situation requires restraint on mills' wood demands. Additional manufacturing capacity should only be installed if existing facilities can be adapted (through higher pulp yields or wood chip use or greater hardwood utilization) or retired to free up wood currently

required by the industry at 'normal' operating levels."

Does the minister not agree that this is a very sensible and practical approach to the supply crisis? Will he tell us very specifically what he intends to do to get industry to increase pulp yields and to increase wood chip use and hardwood utilization so that jobs in the forest industry will be protected, not just now but in the years to come?

Hon. Mr. Pope: One of the things we have done to protect jobs now and in the future in the forest products industry is the series of modernization grants that we, along with the federal government, gave to the pulp and paper industry; they protected 1,800 jobs in my community of Iroquois Falls and thousands of jobs throughout northern Ontario.

The member shakes his head. He would have taken a chance on it. I know what his party's policy is; it is to nationalize the resource industry. They will not nationalize the manufacturing sector because of job security but they will nationalize the resource sector because they do not care about job security. I understand the party's policy, and so do the people of northern Ontario.

I am glad that study agrees with the research work and the initiative that this ministry has taken with respect to the use of hybrid poplar, with respect to utilization in pulp and paper, with respect to the Domtar arrangement and with respect to the fast-growing species we are doing work on. Why are we doing it? Because we agree we should be exploring other species and fuller utilization of the trees to increase our capacities without licensing more land.

BUDGET

Mr. T. P. Reid: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: Before the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) leaves, in view of the fact that day after day we are hearing about the decline of the Ontario economy, and in view of the fact that it has now become apparent—or leaked perhaps by the Treasurer—that May 4 is going to be the budget day, does he not feel he should tell the people of Ontario when the budget is going to come down?

Mr. Speaker: That is not a point of order.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Will he provide some indication when we can expect some guidance and direction from this government?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

3:10 p.m.

TAX GRANTS FOR SENIORS

Mr. Peterson: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: You will recall that I was involved in discussion with the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Ashe) with respect to the seniors' grants, and I want to quote him from Instant Hansard of today. He said, with respect to the advertising expenditures; "It is too bad the honourable members opposite did not realize that last year the election was on March 19. If they want to see when our advertising budget was spent during the past fiscal year, which only started April 1, they would see that it had nothing to do with an election."

I would like to refer members to Hansard of December 5, 1980, when the then Minister of Revenue (Mr. Maeck) was discussing the expenditures for the seniors' program. He revealed the cost at that point to be \$2,978,300, which included an advertising cost of \$934,000. I believe the minister probably inadvertently misled the House with respect to advertising prior to the election. He probably wants to stand up and correct the inappropriate impression he gave this House.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: No, Mr. Speaker. The answers I gave were correct and accurate. We are talking about two different fiscal years. The expenditures in the fiscal year 1980-81 were in the fall of 1980, upon the introduction of the program, and again would have preceded the election by a considerable number of months.

ONTARIO ENERGY INVESTMENT

Mr. Ruston: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: I understand that the Deputy Premier (Mr. Welch) was on television saying what a great deal Suncor was for the people of Canada and Ontario. If it is so great, I wonder why he had a reclaiming truck come in the other night and haul away hundreds of pounds of the Suncor issue printed by the Conservative caucus. If it is so great, why did he not send these out to the public instead of having them burned?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, I do not know what the honourable member is talking about. I think the member has jumped to certain conclusions which are not necessarily consistent with the facts. I do not know. I will be glad to get some explanation.

Mr. Speaker: Order. It is not a point of privilege anyway.

MOTION

SITTING OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Gregory moved that when the House adjourns at 6 p.m. on Thursday next, it stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, April 13, 1982.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

ONTARIO SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT

Mr. Charlton moved, seconded by Mr. Cooke, first reading of Bill 45, An Act to protect and enhance the Quality of Drinking Water in Ontario.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Charlton: Mr. Speaker, the bill is intended to protect and enhance drinking water quality in Ontario. It provides opportunities for public involvement in the making of regulations to set maximum permissible levels for contaminants and other substances in drinking water. These regulations would apply to both public and private water supplies.

The operator of a public water system is required to monitor water quality regularly and to notify the users of the system, as well as the Minister of the Environment, of the result. Any user of a private water system may have the water tested by the Ministry of the Environment.

It is an offence for the operator of a public water system to provide water that contravenes the regulation or to fail to comply with monitoring and notice requirements. It is an offence for anyone to pollute a public or private water system.

The bill permits water users to sue to recover damages for contravention of the act and give the person standing to seek judicial review against the Minister of the Environment. The minister is authorized to commission research into matters related to drinking water quality, and an advisory council is created to assist the minister.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

House in committee of supply.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES,
MINISTRY OF THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL
(concluded)

On vote 1402, administrative services program:

Mr. Chairman: Just before I recognize the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart), I would like to bring to the House's attention that, for those of you who have been paying much attention, the chair, namely, myself as chairman, and my assistants have had difficulties from time to time determining the scope and line of questioning that members opposite have been directing to appropriate ministers.

It is my understanding that in the past supplementary estimates have not had the amount of discussion that seems to be taking place in more recent years. As a result, it leaves the chair in an embarrassing position of trying to decide on the scope of questioning.

After consultation with our advisers, if there is no further discussion with members of all parties, I am going to direct a letter to the Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet (Mr. McCague) suggesting that the chair would find it most appropriate if the ministers could be a little more explicit on the introduction of supplementary estimates so that the chair at least would be able to make the appropriate rulings on the scope of discussion and whether questions are within those authorized under supplementary estimates.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to say a word about your comments, because I think they are extremely helpful. I would point out, however, that it seems to be in the minds of the representatives of the government that these supplementary estimates should be passed before the end of the fiscal year, which is why they insisted on proceeding with them right after the opening of the Legislature rather than going forward with the debate on the speech from the throne.

The fact that they were not carried by the end of the fiscal year does not seem now to have made any difference. As a matter of fact, we are a number of days past. While they do form a rather useful and important vehicle for members on all sides to express their views early in a session on a whole variety of ministries, and for the expenditure in this instance of more than \$250 million, still it seems to me that if they are not necessary for the end of the fiscal year they could very well be referred to the committee with the regular estimates that will be brought down in the next few days in any event.

While I would not for a moment like the House to forgo the right to debate supplementary estimates, it seems to me that it might be wise in the planning at another time for the supplementaries to be referred to committee

along with regular estimates, and we would not have to go over these important matters more than three or four times.

3:20 p.m.

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Chairman, I agree wholeheartedly with what you have said. I think the problem that has arisen is a result of the inability or the unwillingness of many of the ministers over there. To deal with the very first one, the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Wiseman), when asked to make an opening comment on the amount of money that was required and the specific area for which it was to be spent, declined to do so, which seemed to have set the pattern for all of these estimates.

The other thing that causes some problem for members is that a concurrence motion, which comes when a regular estimate is reported back to the House, is quite a bit different from a supplementary estimate. A concurrence motion gives members on all sides of the House an opportunity to speak on a variety of subjects within a two-and-a-half-hour time frame, as opposed to supplementary estimates where the ministers are coming in and asking for additional sums for specific uses within the ministry.

The point the Chairman raises is one that the Chairman of Management Board, and all ministers submitting supplementary estimates to this committee, should take under advisement. If they do not, they just invite the kind of thing we have had for the past week here in supplementary estimates.

The point made by the House leader of the Liberal Party has a good deal of validity, and I would hope that the Chairman would follow that course of action. But the onus is on those ministers who bring in these supplementary estimates to be much more specific than they have been up to this point.

Mr. Chairman: I have just been advised by the table that the standing committee on procedural affairs is apparently looking at some aspects of supply. Unfortunately, knowing the ways of the world here, the process suggested by the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) may be a little slow. As a result, it would be expedient to follow my procedure to try to help things along until such time as we get the other process under way.

In any event, what my assistant and I will be attempting to do, with the best unbiased impartiality possible, is to try to help supplementary estimates along as reasonably as possible and

yet allow all members to have the best possible scope of discussion and questioning.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Chairman, I want to have a few words to say on the supplementary estimates of the Ministry of the Attorney General as they relate to legal aid and legal aid clinics. I am going to touch just briefly on three items.

The legal aid clinic in the Welland area was established some two years ago, if my memory serves me correctly, and legal aid, as such, has been in force for many years. I want to pay tribute here to the improvement it has been made in the area of the Niagara Peninsula with regard to equality under the law. It is certainly far better than it was previously.

My colleague the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) expressed his concern and that of this caucus the other day that it does not as yet go far enough to provide the equality and fairness that should exist in our legal system. We are concerned that there may be some retrenchment, as there has been in the health system in many areas, and in fact in the average income in this province, because of actions of this government.

We want to make it perfectly clear that we will oppose, as strongly as we can, any attempt to cut back on legal aid and the legal aid clinics, which do such an excellent job for so many people. That is the first point I wanted to touch on.

Second, and I hope the minister will comment on this when he rises, in recent times there apparently has been some attempt by the Law Society of Upper Canada to rather limit the operation of community legal workers. They are being told by the lawyers in charge, upon the insistence of the law society, that they should not be writing letters to various people, particularly other lawyers and other community workers, under their own signature, but that it should all go through the lawyers. It is impeding the operation of the legal aid clinics and is causing some dissatisfaction among the workers, who often have far more knowledge of the situation than the lawyer who may head up the clinic and has not had any part in the discussions.

I am hoping the minister will take a look at this and perhaps send out instructions to those in charge of the legal aid clinics that this should not take place. It is my understanding the ministry has not yet taken a stand on this. This is all being done by the law society directly through the lawyers in the legal aid clinics, and it is having an adverse effect on the service that can be given. I will not elaborate on that point

any further. I think I have made the point clear and the minister will want to comment on it.

The third area I want to mention is the general umbrella of legal aid that has been set up. For instance, it is possible for certain citizen groups and certain organizations to get funding under legal aid. The Preservation of Agricultural Land Society was able to do so in the Niagara Peninsula. This funding is very restrictive. I understand it has been given out in only a few instances.

The board may have decided that, because the government of Ontario was not representing its stated policy at the hearings with regard to the land in the Niagara Peninsula, it should fund the group that was representing it. In any event, PALS got a minimum amount of funding, about one quarter of the total cost they had in this. It was appreciated by them, and I think it was a good move on the part of the government.

I believe organizations like the Canadian Environmental Law Association also get substantial funding under the general umbrella of legal aid. The suggestion I want to make to the minister here today is that this should be broadened further still. It should include some assistance to citizen groups fighting utility and rate hearings, whether before the Ontario Energy Board or the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission, as is the case for Bell Canada.

I am sure the minister must be aware of the tremendous imbalance at these hearings. For instance, at the hearing that took place to set the rates for Consumers' Gas System there were some 20 witnesses and several lawyers there representing them all through the hearings. There was not one lawyer or witness representing the residential consumers. It is impossible to get a totally fair decision when there is that kind of imbalance.

I recognize that the Ontario Energy Board has its own lawyer there and cross-examines the witnesses for the gas company; but when there is nobody there specifically representing the consumer, it is certain they are at a disadvantage and are not going to get a fair shake.

It seems to me this is an area where this government is refusing to appoint a public advocate, as they have now in many states in the United States. It refuses to adequately represent the consumers. The terms of reference on legal aid should be broadened so they can represent the consumers at these hearings.

In the case of Northern and Central Gas, there were eight witnesses for the gas company

before the Ontario Energy Board. Again, there was not a single representative there speaking for the residential consumers served by that company in northern Ontario.

3:30 p.m.

Tremendous increases were given and there were substantial increases in the profits of the utility companies last year. That was the only group, apart from the banks, that substantially increased its profits in this nation. They are going up 25 per cent on average. With the new ruling, their profits this year will go up at least another 25 per cent and perhaps another 50 per cent. The consumers of this province are going to pay for that.

The same holds true for the Bell Canada hearings. I have correspondence here, which I will not take time to read, from the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow) in reply to a letter I sent to him last fall. I said that in view of the fact Bell Canada had been awarded approximately an additional \$440 million, he should appeal this to the federal cabinet or use the other appeals open to him.

He wrote back to me at that time saying they were looking into it and would take appropriate action if it was warranted. Then in January of this year we found out that Bell Canada's profits had increased by something like 105 per cent; 25 per cent higher than they had ever been before.

I wrote to him again asking him to launch an appeal against the proposed eight per cent increase here in Toronto and to ask for a Bell Canada payment holiday for consumers for at least one month to use up some of that excess profit. He wrote back a snarky letter in which he said it is always easy to attack profits and that sort of thing. He had no intention of making any appeal.

I give those examples to point out the need for an extension of the legal aid process at this time to assist those citizens' groups which may want to appear, and which should appear, before the hearings of the Ontario Energy Board and the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission. Perhaps we should go a bit further than that on many environmental matters as well. I hope the Solicitor General (Mr. G. W. Taylor) will answer this when he gets up to respond.

With the economic situation in this province now, with many people being hurt badly by high costs because their incomes have been reduced, any government should ensure that exorbitant charges are not levied against the citizens of this province for such necessities as gas for home

heating, telephone and hydro, all essential to any standard of living. As we all know, those with low incomes are paying a higher percentage of their income for costs such as home heating.

I want to leave the thought with the minister that there is a real need for an extension into that area and I hope, although I do not have very much hope, he might reply that the government will consider taking further action in that matter.

Mr. McGuigan: Mr. Chairman, the member for Welland-Thorold has a problem of not having witnesses on hand to proceed with a case. My problem in Kent county is we do not have a judge. I would like to ask the acting Attorney General, since the application has come forward from Kent county for a second judge and as legislation has been passed here, can he tell us when the order in council will be passed, if it has not already been passed, approving a second judge?

I point out by way of information that I think on average there are about 55,000 to 58,000 citizens per judge and in Kent county we have 110,000 per judge. I was informed by an officer of the court yesterday that the judge was setting trial dates for December. Our problem is we have a hard time using funds for the purpose under discussion here today because of our lack of a proper number of judges.

Mr. Stokes: I have two very short comments I want to make, Mr. Chairman. I have been a member of an area legal aid committee since 1971 and have had an opportunity to get an insight into the way the whole system works. From my vantage point I would like to say that generally speaking it works extremely well, but there are two particular aspects I think I have a responsibility to bring to the minister's attention.

The first one is the way people who appear in court are represented where their best interests are protected by duty counsel. It is the responsibility of the director of legal aid to have a directory where courts are attended by duty counsel so that the best interests of the accused, some of them having little or no knowledge of the law, are protected and they are advised as to the proper course of action having regard to the nature and the severity of the charges being laid.

It is my perception, on the basis of having listened to appeals from the decisions of the director of legal aid for the district of Thunder Bay, that quite often it has cost the system, and therefore the taxpayers in Ontario, a good deal

of money that probably would not have had to be spent at all if the duty counsel had given the proper advice to the accused at the time of the first appearance.

That is a pretty broad and general statement and generalizing in an area as complex and as sensitive as this is often dangerous. But it is my perception that if you could undertake to have guidelines laid down by the Law Society of Upper Canada, the director of legal aid here in Toronto, Mr. Lawson, or some other responsible person or group, that will have general application for most instances that occur when the services of duty counsel are required, the system of justice in this province would be a lot better.

I think it would make the job of the directors of legal aid across the province and the area committees a lot simpler if the proper action had been taken in the first place where the first line is with duty counsel. I have seen numerous instances where, because the accused did not get the proper advice on that initial appearance, it has cost the taxpayers in this province large sums of money to protect their interests after the fact rather than before it escalated into a problem of fairly major proportions.

3:40 p.m.

A good many of the lawyers who put their names on the list for duty counsel and are called are relatively young lawyers, some of them with very little experience in handling cases. I would like to see a system of guidelines developed and put in place for use universally across the province when there is a summary conviction that is not going to involve a sentence where some time might be spent in jail.

I do not presume to speak for other areas, but I happen to know our system in the Thunder Bay district works reasonably well. Having talked to other people who are more knowledgeable about the system generally across the province, ours stands up extremely well. We have a dedicated director. I think we have a good area committee. But it is my perception the interests of justice across Ontario would be much better served if we had that system of guidelines for the use of duty counsel.

There is another area I would like to touch on briefly. For the last four or five years in northwestern Ontario, particularly in places like Thunder Bay and Kenora, with branch operations in Geraldton and Marathon, we have had clinics to serve the needs of our first citizens. That works extremely well, particularly with the little satellite operations in the

more isolated and remote communities such as Marathon, Nipigon and Geraldton.

I am not very familiar with the level of costing or the amount of funds dedicated to those operations, but I have been advised by people who operate those clinics that their future is in some doubt. I am not sure whether it is because of a cutback or a retrenchment in that area or whether it is because there are not sufficient additional sums of money made available to take care of inflation, increased costs or an increased work load. I know that is of concern to some very dedicated people who are operating these clinics on behalf of our first citizens.

I do not wish to be overly dramatic or melodramatic about the problem in our courts and the number of our first citizens who for a variety of reasons find themselves before the courts and who spend a good deal of time incarcerated for a variety of relatively minor offences, a good many of them related to the use of alcohol. I can only say an inordinately large number of our first citizens find themselves before the courts for a variety of reasons in proportion to their percentage of the overall population.

I think it is absolutely critical and essential that in funding the legal aid plan, as you are asking during these supplementary estimates, a sufficient amount of money be dedicated to making sure the best interests of our first citizens are protected and looked after. I can appreciate that, given the relative numbers of our first citizens, one would think that in proportionate terms they are very well looked after. In terms of the work load and the number of appearances I can assure you they are not well looked after.

It is an excellent program. I think this minister would be doing everybody in Ontario a favour by ensuring that we maintain the level of service with regard to legal aid and these clinics and the wonderful work they do on behalf of the first citizens in Ontario. I think this is one way in which you can perpetuate a good program, build upon it, and make sure that it serves the need for which it was originally intended.

The Deputy Chairman: Does the acting Attorney General want to respond to the statement that has been made?

Hon. G. W. Taylor: We have formulated two or three different methods, Mr. Chairman. It started off that some of the ministers were saving their responses until the end. However, yesterday, when I started on behalf of the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) as the acting

Attorney General, I started responding to each individual as the member gave his comments.

I believe there are a couple of members waiting who would like responses to their information at this time. I might give those, then I can carry on with the question and answer process and wait for the member. If he allows me that, I will answer the questions now.

Yesterday, the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) asked certain questions about the process. If I can keep them in order, he was concerned about the very basic future of the legal aid plan with regard to what he considered to be statistics that were showing up. He did not want to think that restraint was showing up in another manner in the program by the reduction of the number of certificates. I would also hope that is not taking place.

I can confirm for the member that we do, through the Law Society of Upper Canada and through the legal aid plan, keep very accurate groupings of statistics. I think history has shown that where those statistics bear out that certain activities or directions should be taken by the legal aid plan to improve upon it, those actions have been taken to make those improvements in the plan.

It was a wise decision made by the initiators of the legal aid plan that so many areas were statistically accumulated right from the outset and have been accumulated throughout the period of time so the legal aid plan can be improved upon. As the member for Riverdale knows, there have been ongoing reviews by the law society and by independent groups of the legal aid plan. I think all of them have resulted in an improvement in the plan. I hope to confirm that there is no restraint in the certificates. As acting Attorney General, I will bring it to the attention of the Attorney General. I do not believe his actions are creating a restraint program in the use of eligibility certificates. I believe, as he suggested, there will be improvements in the method of eligibility for legal aid certificates.

In regard to the designation of clinic funding, the present method of funding of clinics, the payment and the timing is under review. I am given to understand that the 1982-83 clinic funding will be made available in the next couple of weeks. A decision will be made as to the designation for that funding.

As I mentioned yesterday, there was an approximate clinic funding budget made over the 1980-81 period for the fiscal year 1981-82.

There was projected to be an 18 per cent increase in the amount of funding for clinics.

As to the matter of the federal contributions, you have heard it many times in this House by ministers, including myself more recently, that naturally we would like further funding from the federal government because some of the areas that the legal aid plan does assist happen to fall within its jurisdiction.

3:50 p.m.

For 1980-81, the federal funding was \$8.5 million. For the 1981-82 estimate, it is believed it will be \$9.3 million, and that is a 9.4 per cent increase. The officials of the ministry have been discussing with their counterparts at the federal level an increase in this amount. Those discussions are presently ongoing so that a further cost-sharing can be achieved through the legal aid plan so that the province will receive further money from the federal propositions.

On the Burnaby project that the member for Riverdale discussed, as you will recall at the outset of the legal aid plan—it goes back to my early career as a lawyer—the different public defender systems throughout the jurisdictions of the world were looked at and were not adopted. They were discounted as methods of supplying legal assistance to the citizens of the province.

The plan has instituted a solicitor and client relationship with a certificate so that the solicitor and client relationship was independent of the government, and really independent of even an appearance of influence, so you had a solicitor and client relationship and only the funding came in. That was one of the highlights of our system and indeed was touted as being one of the highlights of the legal aid system.

The present Linden-Ewart report, entitled Background Paper on the Implications of the Salaried Defender Concept for the Delivery of Criminal Legal Aid Services in Ontario, has been looked at. It has not been thoroughly reviewed to the point of saying, "No, it will not be done," but the Attorney General assures me it is under review and the concept of a public defender system has not been ruled out entirely. There may be some place for it in the future, although when we look at our present plan—you have the clinics, you have the solicitor and client relationship in the present system—it appears a great many people have been serviced and are serviced by the process, particularly when you consider that the number of clinics are increasing and the number of salaried

individuals with a background in law are increasing in those clinics.

You commented upon the appointment of two senior members to the ministry clinic funding committee. These appointments are not new in terms of senior representation, but it is indicated to me that the Attorney General is a strong supporter of clinic funding. He is personally satisfied with these two appointments and that they will strengthen the clinic movement in Ontario.

Another point you made was on the financial eligibility criteria. You asked specifically about the individuals. I do not have information as to the exact individuals. I thought that was the part you wanted in the question, the actual people who made up that committee. I am informed it is made up of representatives of the Ministry of Community and Social Services, the Ministry of the Attorney General and the law society, including Professor Ellis.

We understand the items are near resolution on financial eligibility criteria. If your question was to elicit the names of the individuals on that committee reviewing the material, I will obtain them for you, so that you may know the individuals. That information is not in the material that was provided to me today.

The tariff committee of the law society has not yet reported its recommendations for a tariff increase, and the people in the ministry and the Attorney General are awaiting the submission. Naturally, we will review it at that time. I think your comments are well taken as to the 25 per cent contribution made, or that was given the appearance of being made, by the profession. It was labelled by you, I think, as a charitable situation, that these people who are receiving legal aid certificates should not in any way or form be considered to be receiving charity in some respect from the legal profession who participate in the program.

I think those remarks are well taken. One might look at the tariff and suggest there should be a tariff and that should be it. The legal profession wanted to disguise this as being their donation to society. I do not find the words "some form of charity" acceptable either. As the member mentioned, I think those should be reviewed and there should be a tariff given to a duty counsel or a member of the profession for conducting those services under a legal aid certificate.

I believe those were all the questions the member for Riverdale posed to me yesterday. I hope I have answered them to some degree.

Although I know this is a matter for legal aid, some of the questions were of a larger nature. I am sure the Attorney General will address those as to the direction they will take when he begins his estimates on his return later this year.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Chairman, perhaps the acting Attorney General would let me make one minor comment. I just want to say I appreciated the responses he made. As far as this supplementary estimate is concerned, they covered the questions I raised. They are broader than can be followed in any depth at this time, but they do express the concerns I have which can be reflected when we have a more ample opportunity during the estimates of the Attorney General.

Hon. G. W. Taylor: I thank the member for those comments. I will go now to the member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. McGuigan) who has been inquiring about the second county court judge appointment. I would have to refer that matter to the Attorney General. I have no knowledge of the appointment, when it might be, the statistical background of arriving at that second appointment or when it might be before the executive council for consideration.

As to the comments by the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes), as I mentioned earlier in regard to comments made by the member for Riverdale, there is an increase in funding coming for legal aid clinics in this session.

When the law society administers those funds to the clinics, I would hope the clinics in the northern region will receive consideration and there will be no reduction in funding. I will bring that to the attention of the Attorney General so he can transmit the information to the law society.

With regard to guidelines, the only present guidelines for duty counsel are those set out in the Legal Aid Act and regulations. They are of a broad nature, stating when a person can and cannot act as a duty counsel and the services that can be performed as duty counsel.

The member for Lake Nipigon might dwell on whether the complications he is referring to are when the person is acting as duty counsel, whether the complications have been created by the duty counsel giving advice not necessarily suited to the situation, and whether it caused a later complication by having to go for an appeal to receive a legal aid certificate or specific help under the legal aid system.

In that situation it is very difficult to define guidelines for those duty counsel. They must assess the situation with their general, broad

knowledge of law and not on their knowledge of when they can and cannot act as a duty counsel. I will bring that to the attention of the Attorney General, as you have. I am sure he will be reading the transcript on this, as will his staff, to check out the activity of the duty counsel in that area.

4 p.m.

You have brought to our attention that sometimes they are inexperienced. I think the statistics set out in the annual legal aid report show the number of individuals assisting in the legal aid scheme. If you were to look at years of experience in the 1981 annual report, 25 per cent of the lawyers are in years one to three of experience in the practice of law. It increases to 51 per cent for four to 12 years of experience, and then 22 per cent have more than 12 years of experience. The bulk of lawyers have four to 12 years of experience. I do not know whether that applies to the lawyers practising in the area you have indicated, but I hope it would.

They have the other feature I mentioned. Under the legal aid program they now have the mentor service where a senior counsel can give advice to a junior lawyer or to someone with less experience. I hope that program would be taken advantage of by the counsels in your area so they can give the best advice and the best assistance to the people they are serving. I hope those few comments will assist in answering some of your questions.

I go now to the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart), who I see is not here. He mentioned reduction of funding for clinics under the legal aid scheme. There is no reduction of funding. As I have repeated to three or four members, there is going to be an increase this year in the funding of legal aid clinics.

He also asked questions about the type of service and whether it should be for certain programs. I guess he was describing ones where he thought there should be funds available for somebody to contest applications before the Ontario Energy Board or other boards and tribunals.

Initially, when the legal aid plan was created, I think there was a refusal to fund test cases in the legislation that was passed. It was to be a solicitor-client relationship. If one had a test case, the legal aid scheme would not fund that. That philosophy has been changed, and now there is a committee for test cases. It is a subcommittee of the legal aid program. If one has a test case for which one desires funding, the group, individual, institution or whatever the

label might be, can have a class action or a test case. There is a special committee one can appeal to for funding at this time.

The member also mentioned the Canadian Environmental Law Association. I look at the list of partially funded groups called independent, community-based legal clinics that receive some funding. He referred to the Canadian Environmental Law Association as one that might receive funding. It appears from the 1981 annual report that this group, the Canadian Environmental Law Association, if it is the same one, does receive some funding under the legal aid program, as do many others.

I will give some indication of them: Advocacy Resource Centre for the Handicapped, Industrial Accident Victims Group of Ontario, Injured Workers' Consultants, Keewaytinok Native Legal Services, Centre for Spanish-Speaking Peoples, Landlords' Self-Help Centre and Metro Tenants' Legal Services. There are others: Black Resources and Information Centre, Greek Community Social Services and Latin American Community Centre.

There is a broad group of legal aid clinics that are funded which have what one might describe as special interests, as well as the many groups offering services in the general nature of community legal aid services. The plan does cover many of those features that the member for Welland-Thorold commented on.

The only other one he mentioned was that the Attorney General might write a letter to the Law Society of Upper Canada instructing it how to administer the plan in regard to lawyers who seem to be having some conflict with other staff at these community resource centres.

I did not quite understand his problem in that regard. Perhaps if he would more fully set out the difficulty he alleged was taking place with lawyers writing or not writing letters to other members, possibly I could understand the problem on those community resource centres. If he could explain that more fully, I would be pleased to take it up with the Attorney General.

I believe that brings us down to answering most, if not all, questions of the members who have presented themselves here except the member for Ottawa East (Mr. Roy), who wants to make some comment.

The Deputy Chairman: He does.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Chairman, when we are discussing legal aid, I would not want to let an opportunity go by to offer a few comments on what I consider a very important topic.

I see my dear friend and colleague the

Minister of Revenue (Mr. Ashe) is sitting there smiling, hoping that somehow the comments will be reduced so that we can get on to his bill and get that processed this afternoon. I want to say to him, he should not tax our patience after putting up with his enlightened answers in question period. He will be fortunate if he gets out of here by 10:30 this evening with his bill. In fact, he deserves even less than that. We should keep him here the rest of the week, after what he—

The Deputy Chairman: Just be reminded by the chair that the Attorney General's estimates are on the floor—

Mr. Roy: That is right.

The Deputy Chairman: —and, in fact, they have to do with legal aid exclusively.

Mr. Roy: Do not curtail my—

The Deputy Chairman: I will curtail you only if you are not on topic. The Chairman made that clear at the beginning.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Chairman, please do not hamper my enthusiasm. I want to speak on this question of legal aid, first of all, to congratulate the Solicitor General. I have not had an opportunity to congratulate him publicly on his appointment and tell him that we wish him the very best in the position of Solicitor General.

Fortunately for him, he will not have many opportunities to come before the House to answer questions dealing with the legal aid plan. I suppose some would say that, fortunately for him, he will have to deal with matters that may be more difficult to deal with than the legal aid plan, when he has to answer on the police of Ontario and so on.

Nevertheless, we do wish him well for the future, and I appreciate some comments he made here this afternoon in response to some of my colleagues' questions.

I want to take this opportunity to make a few comments and pay tribute to many people who do not receive much credit for the operation of Ontario's legal aid plan. Through comments made by members of this assembly and judges at different time, the headlines we often read about legal aid are that the plan is being ripped off at times, that the plan is just an open door or a cash register for the legal profession of Ontario and so on.

I want to take this opportunity to correct some of these distortions, which I consider distortions of the—

Mr. Stokes: Why is your colleague squirming?

Mr. Nixon: He can't wait to get up and speak, that's why.

Mr. Roy: I hope he does because, with all due respect to one of my colleagues who shall remain nameless for the record at this time, he has made some slight contribution to what I consider distortions of the program and the contribution that lawyers make to the plan.

Mr. Chairman, as you know, the plan operates from the top with benchers from the Law Society of Upper Canada who are very much involved and who give up much of their free time. People from the law society give many hours of their time, without pay, to see that the system operates. From there, we proceed to all those legal aid committees. The member for Lake Nipigon talked about that. He serves on some of the committees. There may be other people, not only members of the legal profession but also other citizens right across Ontario, who put in many hours serving—

Mr. Stokes: It cost me money to serve on it.

Mr. Roy: Probably it does, because in areas like the member's one has to travel to attend meetings. I think many of these people who make a contribution without financial benefit to many of these local legal aid committees deserve the tribute and gratitude of the people of Ontario. Very often, their contribution is not underlined and appreciated here in Ontario.

4:10 p.m.

I move from those members who serve and who deserve our gratitude to citizens across Ontario who serve again in a fashion without financial benefit and who help out in those local legal aid clinics. Many of the people who are serving in those clinics are members of the community who make a sizeable contribution. What happens to legal aid happens in many other programs: a lot of people make it work because these people give a lot of time and effort and make a valuable contribution to the system and do not get the credit they deserve.

I want to take this opportunity to say to you that I have seen the legal aid plan evolve. I started practising in 1966, at the time the plan started. I have seen the plan evolve since that time. I have heard the different criticisms, and some have certainly been valid. There were times when there were lawyers and other people who abused the plan.

We used to have long discussions about whether the plan should continue to help fund the defence of repeat offenders. For instance, how often should an individual who is charged

with a criminal offence get a certificate? Should he get two certificates a year? What if he committed five, six, seven or 10 offences a year? Should he get unlimited certificates in a year? The plan decided that for reasons of justice, if one was entitled to due process and to proper representation, there should not be any curtailment or restriction on the number of certificates for any specific individual per year. That was the decision.

I am convinced there are abuses, but to make the process work you have to suffer some abuses. Some people say there are abuses of the unemployment insurance plan, of welfare and so on. But to ensure the plan is sufficiently flexible, so that you do not exclude people who are entitled to or who merit a proper defence, you have to leave some flexibility in it.

It is just like the lawyers operating within the plan. It brings me to some of the criticisms that have been levelled by some of my colleagues here and by some members of the judiciary, about some lawyers who apparently take on cases, who are being paid on a per diem basis and then extend the case.

One case comes to mind, and you may recall this situation, Mr. Chairman. We read about it back in December 1981, where county court judge Ian Cartwright talked about some lawyers who abused the plan in one case. Judge Cartwright labelled this—and I am trying to quote the judge correctly as to what he was talking about when he said these lawyers were just carrying on this trial to accumulate more per diems—

Mr. Nixon: He called it meter spinning.

Mr. Roy: That's right. My colleague for the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk would have a keen memory for that sort of comment. That is what the judge was talking about. He called it meter spinning.

I notice that subsequent to the comments of this judge there has been some investigation. Maybe the minister can comment on whether there is a situation whereby a limited number of lawyers are apparently using the system, not so much to give a proper defence to the individual they are representing but to do what my colleague has said and the judge in the case said, meter spinning; since they are being paid on a per diem basis, they just extend the case.

The judge in the case talked about the fact that the interrogation had not been properly prepared, and he went on to say that there was sheer laziness on the part of these lawyers in the preparation of their case. Subsequent to the

judge's comment, these lawyers made some complaint to the Law Society of Upper Canada and there were some comments made.

I would like to get a comment from the minister on whether this is a problem because, if it is, we must not let a limited or restricted number of lawyers undermine the legal aid plan in Ontario.

I notice that some time ago another judge, Mr. Justice John O'Driscoll, commented about a case. A newspaper report said:

"Toronto lawyer Jack Pinkofsky, accused of ripping off the province's legal aid plan by a Supreme Court justice, may be docked for wasting the court's time when he submits his account to the Ontario legal aid plan.

"Mr. Justice John O'Driscoll yesterday accused Pinkofsky and another defence lawyer, Len Miller, of needlessly delaying a trial of three men charged in wounding a variety store owner during an attempted robbery.

" 'The whole system would collapse if more than a few counsel acted this way,' O'Driscoll said after sentencing the three convicted men to long penitentiary terms. They were convicted after a trial that took more than 41 days."

I had occasion to discuss this case with Mr. Justice O'Driscoll earlier this year. He talked about a limited number of lawyers and he pointed his finger mostly at lawyers practising here in Metro Toronto who apparently are using questionable methods in defending clients.

The prime interest of such lawyers seems to be to extend a trial as long as possible, raising every conceivable issue. And where you have multiple accused, you can do it. Each counsel takes advantage of the situation to ask questions that have been asked by other counsel. There are endless motions made whereby counsel can extend the process. Finally, they try to exasperate the presiding judge in such a way that he will make some error in law either by comment or by making a particular ruling on a case. Then they can take the matter to the Court of Appeal and get their retainer or the legal aid certificate extended.

I would like to know from the minister whether there have been cases where the legal aid plan has judged that some of these counsels have abused their certificates, where it has been clear that their prime motivation was getting more in per diems than the case warranted. When I see cases taking this length of time, I have to think there was an abuse.

I note in Ontario's News Update for March 1981 that John Bowlby, treasurer of the Law

Society of Upper Canada, reported to the annual meeting that 87.5 per cent of lawyers dealing with the plan receive \$10,000 per year or less. That is an indication that a high percentage of lawyers who deal with the plan are not ripping it off. I think that should be put on the record.

The treasurer also stated at that time that 78 per cent of lawyers in the Ontario plan have been practising at least four years. This should allay the concern of those who say that only junior members of the bar are willing to do the job. I refer to my colleague the member for Lake Nipigon. I think his concern is valid, that in spite of statistics, the plan is certainly not geared to attracting people who have lengthy experience at the bar.

4:20 p.m.

Mr. Stokes: The figure should be 75 per cent.

Mr. Roy: Yes. And the tariff was \$40, \$50 or \$60, depending on your experience, I believe. The minister may correct me, but I think the most the legal aid plans pays is \$60 an hour, no matter how senior or how experienced the counsel is. As the Chairman knows, from his lengthy experience at the bar, \$60 an hour, is not something that will attract very many heavyweights. I am told the going rate for many senior counsel is more in the range of \$120 to \$150 an hour.

Mr. Nixon: God help us then.

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Mr. Roy: My colleague the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk should be brought to order. We know his frustrations with the legal profession, and I will not get into it with him, but certain facts have to be raised even if they are annoying to some members of the assembly.

I say to the minister, if \$60 an hour is the top rate and then you reduce that by 25 per cent or \$20 an hour, the result is that the senior, most experienced counsel are making about \$40 an hour.

I do not know whether any of the members here know the paperwork involved in the processing of forms for a legal aid case. That alone could keep a secretary going for some time. I ask the minister if he can send a message back so that endless forms and reports do not have to be filled out. Whether you represent someone and give him advice for \$10 or represent him on a murder case and bill \$1,500 or whatever, the flat rate for representation in a major criminal offence, there are endless forms that have to be filled out.

Lawyers who work under the plan will be

fortunate if they get paid within six months. I understand this supplementary estimate is to speed up the payments of accounts that have been submitted, but this whole system is not conducive to attracting senior members of the bar to participate in the plan.

I would hazard a guess that the plan would not be able to respond to the need were we not facing a situation where the economics of Ontario have dictated that there are too many lawyers. There is an excess of lawyers who have nothing to do. A lot of young lawyers are coming into the system and they are doing a lot of legal aid work.

Mr. Stokes: They are doing a lot of ambulance chasing.

Mr. Roy: Sure they are. When there are too many lawyers in the profession, especially in the major urban centres, they are hustling. Were it not for the fact that there is an excess of lawyers, you would not have sufficient lawyers to respond to the needs of the plan. In that sense I suppose it is fortunate that there are too many lawyers, but it leads to abuses.

Mr. Nixon: There should be a lot more of them here in the Legislature. That would ease it.

Mr. Roy: I say to my colleague, we are very cautious about criticizing the farm community. The nice thing about the legal profession is that its members have broad shoulders; they can defend themselves and they can take the abuse whether it is warranted or not.

I ask my colleagues to compare different professionals. The other day I was reading a report from 1979 which stated that at that time there were 49 lawyers in Ontario who were paid more than \$40,000 from the Ontario legal aid plan. Another 54 collected between \$30,000 and \$40,000, and 118 were paid between \$20,000 and \$30,000. That means lesser fees were received by more than 4,000 of the 4,805 lawyers who received fees under the plan.

Compare that, I say to my colleague, with how many doctors received \$40,000 or more under the Ontario health insurance plan. Just make a quick comparison of that—

Mr. Nixon: These lawyers don't do anything else but legal aid?

Mr. Roy: That's right. Some of them do. I can assure you that if lawyers—

Mr. Nixon: They must be pretty junior.

Mr. Roy: There are many junior lawyers in Ontario. Do you realize that—

Mr. Nixon: The older ones won't step aside.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Chairman, can you control him? My statements today are directed not so much to the government as to some of my colleagues in my own party who are prejudiced against a particular profession.

Just to correct the record, I know the Attorney General's job in times of constraint is an impossible one, but in criticizing some of the members of the profession who abuse the plan we should make sure it is not undermined. We lose sight of the fact that a lot of people make a substantial contribution to the plan. Many senior lawyers do so out of a sense of duty and certainly not out of a sense of economic profit when they represent people further to a legal aid certificate.

My final comment is in relation to some of the comments made by my colleague the member for Riverdale about the mixture of having people using the public defender system as compared to the system here in Ontario.

I have no doubt in supporting some of my colleagues here who have said that the plan we have here in Ontario is possibly the best system around. We will have to make sure when there are abuses that they are corrected if we want to keep a system such as this, but I think it requires a certain amount of flexibility. There are areas where public defenders on a full-time basis could be more effective than people working just on the basis of a certificate or a fee for service.

I give the example of people working as duty counsel in certain courts. Some of these people possibly are seeing a high volume of people at one time. They may be seeing 30, 40 or 50 accused a day. With experience, they could be making decisions that would save the plan large amounts of money at the earliest opportunity.

We should not be paranoid about whether it is through one system or the other. I think the best system is one giving a certain amount of flexibility to an individual, let's say, who has a certificate, to be able to say, "I have a choice." Because the weakness of the public defender system is just like the weakness of many other government agencies in that it just becomes another number. The public defender is overworked, and he is just trying to get rid of a case; so the defendant does not get the attention he deserves—

Mr. Nixon: Just like the crown attorneys.

Mr. Roy: Some people will see a weakness in the process where the public defender and the crown attorney are determining the future of

individuals and both these people are paid on a full-time basis by the government—

Mr. Nixon: Yes, but the judge is above all that.

Mr. Roy: My colleague wants to intervene, and I trust the record will not show his interventions to be as nasty as they appear to be, at least on the floor of the Legislature.

Mr. Nixon: No, I am a friendly witness. I agree with what you are saying about public defenders.

Mr. Roy: What I am trying to say basically to the minister is that we need a system with a certain amount of flexibility. It is important to all of us to recognize that flexibility is required.

I hope some of my colleagues here, who tend to look at the legal aid plan as just a bonanza for the legal profession, will understand the useful public contribution that many people make within that plan.

4:30 p.m.

For instance, although this has not been pointed out, there are substantial funds—I do not know how many millions of dollars—which come out of the interest on trust accounts. I do not know what that amounts to per year. Perhaps the minister can tell us. This is a further contribution made by that profession. I think all of these contributions—

Mr. Nixon: Do you mean the lawyers should get interest from trust accounts?

Mr. Roy: No, I never said that. Mr. Chairman, I trust someone will curtail the distortions being made by the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk!

Mr. Chairman: Order. I am hesitant to do so because, being painted with a similar brush as to the profession you have been speaking about, I may not be in an unbiased position. However, I do want to remind the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk that we appreciate his attendance very much and we are sorry the weather is so cold outside, because normally he would be away farming about this time of the season.

Mr. Stokes: You really know how to hurt a guy.

Mr. Havrot: There's lots of fertilization for farming in here too.

Mr. Nixon: I am waiting for the tulips to sprout.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Chairman, I should have said something like that because I saw him this morning. He was on the steps of the Legislature and he kept wetting his index finger and sticking

it up in the air. I thought maybe he had ideas of going somewhere other than this place.

In concluding, I want to say to the minister that we appreciate his involvement in this and we appreciate his responses to some of the queries made by my colleagues.

Hon. G. W. Taylor: I welcome the comments of the member for Ottawa East because often plans such as this receive more criticism than is warranted. Many good works are carried out by those donating time and, of course, our legal aid committees and the Law Society of Upper Canada do donate enormous amounts of time.

Indeed, when I practised law one of my partners was Charlie Seagram, who was a bencher of the law society. Being a very particular individual, much of the time he would calculate his time as a lawyer. The number of days he contributed to the Law Society of Upper Canada accumulated to about 36 working days each year. Part of that was in regard to the legal aid plan. He used to mention that meant his time was lost to the firm in that regard. I bring that as a personal experience.

Besides those individuals there are many who are not lawyers. Lay people contribute considerable amounts of time to legal aid committees as well. When I hear criticism, I think the criticism stands out more than some of the good work. I am sure when the lawyers are working for legal aid certificates they work for the amounts of the certificates and know full well at the outset they will be working for those amounts. They do not consider, as has been remarked, that there is any charity involved in it. They know the figures.

The member for Ottawa East asked about the dollar figures. I have a 1979 legal aid tariff which I believe was the last time it was revised. The sum is \$48 an hour and if one has roughly 10 years' experience, it can go up to a maximum of \$60 an hour. I believe the rough and ready rate is about \$48 an hour.

Mr. Haggerty: If one has his QC, does it go up to \$75 or \$80?

Hon. G. W. Taylor: No, under the tariff \$60 is the maximum. Since the inception of the plan in 1968, there have been two tariff revisions, one in 1973, when it went up 25 per cent, and one in 1979. Over a period of time, the tariff increase for payment of accounts and moneys to lawyers has not gone up a considerable amount compared to many other areas.

When one talks about public defenders, the overall plan itself has been reviewed on numer-

ous occasions. It originally started with only duty counsel and fee for service solicitor-client relationships with certificates, but the watchful eyes of the Legislature, the law society and other people have expanded upon that program. We now have the clinics, a greater number of duty counsel and some salaried people working for these clinics.

As I mentioned earlier in my comments, the original idea that was touted after studying many other plans throughout the world was that the solicitor-client fee for service was considered far better than any of the other plans that had restricted themselves solely to a public defender system. I think we are achieving the best of all worlds so individuals before our courts receive assistance in the form of counsel.

The member for Ottawa East mentioned the number of lawyers in the plan. He used some figures and I used some from the 1981 annual report, which is before him. The greatest bulk of lawyers, 84 per cent of the 5,165 lawyers who billed the plan during the last fiscal year for their services, were paid less than \$10,000 from the legal aid plan.

When one looks at the other statistical features which are on page 9 of the 1981 annual report, there are really very few lawyers receiving any substantial sums at all from the plan. These are very small in comparison to the number of lawyers participating. When 84 per cent receive under \$10,000, it shows those lawyers are interested in making the plan work. They are interested in working for those sums and assisting people.

When one looks at the total amount of activity over the plan, there were 67,204 activities before duty counsel in 1968. When you get up to 1981, there were 221,669 activities before duty counsel. There has been a remarkable increase in the activity of the plan; the plan has serviced that many more individuals. The numbers of applications and certificates granted for individuals have also increased enormously.

I think the plan, overall, has served the public well. I think the criticism by the bench—I recognize the bench cannot often speak for itself as we can in this forum and make comment on it—and some criticism by others, allows us to look at the plan and be a little more detailed in correcting that plan. I think if there are any abuses they are minimal.

I recall at one time there was some discussion about the number of lawyers taking too many cases. There is now a self-imposed checkoff method. If a lawyer has too many certificates,

the plan will not allow that lawyer to increase his caseload. So there is a self-imposed protective system in the plan. I think the law society, in administering the plan, is always looking for methods of improving the process for the benefit of the public which it is serving.

I think that touches all the comments the member for Ottawa East made, as well as those his colleague the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk will traditionally make. I will now sit down and enjoy his comments. I think I have three assistants in the House who may wish to hear those comments.

Mr. Chairman: The minister has indicated the member would be speaking next. I do not know if the chair will be in a position to recognize that.

Mr. Nixon: Whatever Mr. Chairman wishes.

Mr. Chairman: That is right. I am sure there is someone else who would love to speak before the member.

Mr. Ruston: I can speak.

Mr. Chairman: There, I knew the member for Essex North would have a few worthwhile comments in defence of the lawyers.

4:40 p.m.

Mr. Ruston: I do not know that, Mr. Chairman. What I wanted to mention concerns me. I have a letter from a constituent of mine, dated almost two years ago. He has apparently been charged with fraud. Up until two years ago, he had paid \$9,000 to his solicitor and never got anywhere in court. Then he got this letter from the solicitor, which says:

"I estimate that the trial of the various counts pending against you will take approximately five to six months in court, and I estimate my fees will be between \$80,000 and \$90,000 to defend the various charges. However, if for some reason the trial does not go on as long as I anticipate, I can advise you my fees will be \$750 a day."

He is wondering if there is some way he could dispose of his small farm and home and then get legal aid. Can the minister tell me how much legal aid would pay if that is the estimated cost of the legal fees?

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Chairman, I have no comment. I would have great difficulty to try to estimate the cost of another lawyer's services.

There is in the legal aid tariff a very specific tariff so that each stage of conduct of a trial or a piece of litigation has a specific dollar value attached to it. The solicitor carries out that

stage, submits the account, and it is reviewed by the accountants who work for the Ontario legal aid plan.

It is very thorough. As the member for Ottawa East commented earlier, there is a very thorough submission of one's account to the legal aid system. When one is going on to a more lengthy trial, before one gets a certificate one also has to indicate to the body that grants the certificate the length of time and approximate expense the conduct of the piece of litigation is going to take.

In the legal aid plan there are some safeguards to control the amount of expenditures and to make sure the direction the lawyer is taking on behalf of the client is a direction that can be accounted for in dollars, as well as in the service to be provided.

As to the case of the member for Essex North, I prefer not to comment on that individual except to say that he should be able to seek—as it is possible—another lawyer who may offer a different standard of costs for that matter before him.

Mr. Ruston: The minister replied as best he could under the circumstances. There is a problem I find from people involved in these matters, and I am speaking now for those who are charged. In this case, it has been three years since he was charged. He has a licence to operate a business but since he has been charged with fraud he cannot operate his business because people are reluctant to attend to him for business.

In the courts, which I know we are not dealing with now, we find many cases in our own area where the judges every month or two are condemning lawyers for not going ahead with trials. They say they do not have the time and they are tied up. Sometimes when justice is delayed, justice is not carried out. As the fellow said, "Justice delayed is justice denied."

I understand this gentleman had told the crown attorney he will go himself, without a lawyer, but now the crown attorney will not go ahead with the case. He does not want to go ahead with him acting as his own lawyer. I am losing a lot of faith in our court system.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Chairman, I want to say that I have no objection to the voting of an additional \$3 million in the interest of legal aid in Ontario.

Vote 1402 agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: This completes consideration of the supplementary estimates of the Ministry of the Attorney General.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Gregory, the committee of supply reported a certain resolution.

FUEL TAX AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Ashe moved second reading of Bill 8, An Act to amend the Fuel Tax Act, 1981.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Speaker, just a brief statement that may answer all questions that may be raised. This bill to amend the Fuel Tax Act, 1981, will provide an effective date of February 1, 1982, for the establishment of a program of relief for small independent businessmen and farmers' co-operatives for additional tankage costs arising from the coloration of fuel.

When the legislation establishing the coloured fuel program was before the House last fall, members will recall that I indicated the government was cognizant of the fact that additional facilities would be necessary for businesses required to handle both clear and coloured fuel. I also indicated that we were unwilling to impose financial hardships on those businesses in order for them to comply with the terms of the program.

I recognize that construction of the additional tank facilities required for storage and transportation of fuel must begin now in order that the implementation date of September 1, 1982, for the coloured fuel program may be met. For that reason, I am proposing this amendment to the Fuel Tax Act, 1981, which will allow my ministry to provide assistance to those businesses qualifying for relief during construction of those facilities, rather than waiting until the end or after September 1.

Because of this assistance program, I believe no business should experience any impediment to its normal business cash flow because of the coloured fuel program.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, we support this bill. We are happy to see that while the government is causing distress on the one hand it is doing something in advance so that as the minister says it will not interrupt the cash flow at a time of tight money. One wonders about some of these programs the government has introduced. However, we cannot argue with the principle of this bill and we will vote in favour.

Mr. Breaugh: Mr. Speaker, we will support the principle of the bill. It has long been our contention that whenever the government of Ontario comes up with some bright idea that costs other people money, it ought to attempt to reimburse them. We support the principle of

this very brief legislation and we agree with the government.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I just want to comment briefly that the concept of selling two colours of fuel has been tried before in the province without much success and was abandoned. I have a feeling that it is only the minister's suspicious mind that has led us into a situation where we now have to pass an enactment allowing him to subsidize the various fuel distributors for building identical, duplicate storage facilities so that the fuel can be Tory red at the same time as they can sell uncoloured fuel to the market, particularly in rural areas.

We had the argument on another occasion. The government majority has bulldozed this through so that we now face the imposition of coloured fuel in the province once again. The idea of an amendment, however, which will permit the Minister of Revenue to get approval for giving grants to the distributors directly affected is one we all support.

4:50 p.m.

There is a concern that I raised with the minister at the time of the original debate, and personally since, that the limit he is prepared to set on the costs of the duplication of facilities is unnecessarily low. He did explain to me that the limit that is being established has to do not necessarily with the individual companies or distributors, but with the number of sites they may have. That may apply in some instances, for example, to one of the large co-operatives near my area, the Norwich farmers' co-op, which sells a good deal of the fuel for the farm community and also for other consumers.

Their costs, it is estimated, in duplicating the storage facilities, will be larger than the limit he has indicated would be established per location. I feel sure, however, that the minister, if proper evidence is presented to him that the costs are beyond the limit that would normally be established, would be in a position to review that evidence and perhaps make exceptions in individual cases, at least one of which, I believe, would deserve his concern, where the costs would be above the indicated limit.

Once again, I feel it is a mistake getting into the coloured fuel situation, particularly compared with our experience of 30 or 40 years ago, but we are going to do it. In this instance, we have to assist the distributors in duplicating their facilities. Certainly we approve of the principle of the bill and we have demonstrated

that by fitting it into the ordinary business of the House with as little delay as possible.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk raised a point that is well taken. There certainly has to be some question of whether it is a wise move to go to coloured fuel, because the government is putting the distributors and others to substantial cost because of its policy. We are supporting the bill too. It is questionable, though, whether the bill will, in fact, reimburse the distributors for the extra costs they will have, particularly the smaller distributors.

It is one thing to subsidize the storage tanks. These distributors tell me, and I have no doubt what they say is correct, that it is going to mean in some instances substantial additional haulage costs because of the two colours of gas they have. It will mean dividing their tank trucks, in some instances, so they can haul one coloured gas in one part and another coloured gas in the other part. There are going to be ongoing costs to these distributors that are not going to be met by the government.

The decision has been made to go to coloured gas and the bill we have before us is substantially better than nothing, so we are going to support it. But I do not want anybody to think we think this is the ideal situation, because it is not. It is, to some extent, a reflection on the distributors and the users of this gas that they have been using the gas inappropriately. Some may have been, but the costs of this are pretty substantial and they are not all going to be borne by the government.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, my colleague for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk showed an awful lot of wisdom in the previous business of the House in saying nothing about that particular item. I shall reciprocate and not say anything about this bill.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I know this is the principle of the bill. How much money is this going to cost?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me thank the critics opposite and the House leaders for accommodating the bill this afternoon so that we could get on with this program and start compensating the cash-flow needs of the companies and individuals involved. That was the reason for trying to get it before us as soon as possible.

I think a couple of things need a little clarification, particularly based on a few of the statements made by the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart). He used the term "gasoline"

line" for example, and of course we are not talking of gasoline at all. We are talking about the middle distillates such as heating oils, diesel fuels and that kind of thing.

I appreciate he says he is bringing it on because of what he was told by others, but I also fail to recognize the particular point of the business of extra transportation costs and delivery costs. That one escapes me. Part of the compensation program recognizes that in the case of some of the distributors part of their additional cost may involve putting separate compartments in their delivery vehicles. That is one of the things they can receive compensation for. How that would increase the cost of delivery, I do not know.

Mr. Swart: They will be going with half loads sometimes.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Again, the whole basis of their proposal for compensation is dependent on the makeup of their system, on what they are selling and in what quantities. We have professionals who will be evaluating their needs, not somebody who is not familiar in a professional sense with what their needs will be. We are going that route so there can be intelligent dialogue that will end up with satisfaction in the area of the costs and the future delivery of the product, whether it be coloured or colourless.

As to cost, no additional new cost is being precipitated by this bill. The cost is as identified during the original discussion on the bill last fall. We estimate the capital cost repayment will be something in the area of \$4 million at the distributor level. There is no doubt that back at the refineries there are capital costs involved in the permanent injection of coloured dyes, etc.

There is no front-end capital cost recovery to the large multinational oil companies which felt they could finance it on their own. They will be compensated on an ongoing basis at 0.03 cents per litre. That is 30 cents per kilolitre. Over a period of years, guesstimated to be somewhere in the area of seven or eight, they will not only be compensated on an annual basis for the depreciated cost of their capital investment, but operating costs as well, so we feel there should be no pass-through to the consumer from the colouring program.

The reason behind it is that it is estimated there will be net revenues to the government and the system may be kept a little purer than it was. Again it is an estimate, and there is no doubt about that at all, but it is felt to be an educated estimate that something in the order of \$25 million is being avoided out there. It is

hoped the colour program will bring that into the coffers of the government for its much needed programs.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

House in committee of supply.

5 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING

On vote 603, municipal affairs program, and vote 2206, Ontario mortgage program:

Mr. Chairman: I call upon the minister to make an opening comment, if he would, to give us some limits for the discussion.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Chairman, vote 603 relates to \$36,640,400. The explanation for \$35 million of it is to advance payments to municipalities before the beginning of our new financial year. The municipalities have requested that the government try to advance payments from January 1 until April 1 to try to reduce the cost of borrowing to the individual municipality. We have accommodated that to the tune of \$35 million.

The second portion of the allocation or vote relates to \$1,640,400. That is an additional requirement for the Ontario youth employment program. The allocation of funds for the youth employment program is \$26.4 million and we have accepted applications from a number of organizations or employers. The applications, generally speaking, far exceed the number of dollars we have for allocation. It has been our experience in the past that about 50 per cent of the applications that are made fall by the wayside before the completion of the program for the year in which they apply.

In the case of the immediate past year, we found only about one third of the applications fell by the wayside. In other words, the allocation of funding, the number of approved applications for participating in the program and the take up on funding, was greater than our experience in the previous years. So the necessity to meet all of the requirements for funding of the Ontario youth employment program will take \$1.64 million more than in 1981.

I might say in relationship to the youth employment program that it is one that has been rather successful. Last year it created 53,000 jobs. I am rounding out that figure. It also had almost 22,000 employers participating. One of the areas in which we would like to see greater

participation, and which I hope we will be able to stimulate through some of the program initiatives in the coming year, is greater use of it by the farm community. Only 15.5 per cent of the applications in the past year went to the farm community.

One of the pleasing parts of the program is that about 92 per cent of the funding went to the use of small business, in which I am including the farm community. Those are parts of the success of the program and as a result of its success, \$1.64 million is required to balance it.

Vote 2206, Ontario mortgage program; item 2, Ontario Mortgage Corporation, is the program for the Ontario rental construction loan program. Our original requirements for funding were predicated on the fact the advance payments would be made at the completion of the building. In other words, at the first mortgage draw by the private sector we would advance all of the funding required for the commitment under the ORCL.

You will recall that as the year progressed extra money was added to the fund to accommodate or stimulate and create more activity in apartment rental construction in Ontario. It was increased from \$4,200 per unit to \$6,000.

The next item which really caused the need for \$2 million at this time was that we would advance 50 per cent of the mortgage loan from the province to be paid at the time the roof line was established. That brought the requirement of the government funds in somewhere between six and nine months earlier than anticipated, at least for 50 per cent of the payment. That is the reason for the \$2 million requirement at this time.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Chairman, I want to speak about all three of the votes if it meets with your approval.

I suppose I might as well begin with the unconditional grants because the concept of paying them in advance is welcome. The interest payments paid by municipalities that have to carry the costs of borrowing for their local programs while they wait for grants has become extremely large. They are cutting more and more into their normal programs.

I sincerely wish some of the minister's colleagues would respond with a similar program. I am thinking particularly of the payment for general welfare assistance at the municipal level. Interest payments made necessary by the delays in remittances from the province, have become a significant additional cost to the municipalities.

In most provinces, the municipal involvement has been abolished with a view to the fact that the large proportion of the costs are paid by the Canada assistance program anyway. So anything that is going to assist the municipalities in this connection is welcome. We should, however, say something about the unconditional grants. As the minister knows, particularly from his former experience in municipal government, the costs at the local level have gone up much more rapidly than the payments from his ministry have expanded.

The minister probably recalls in his early days in politics—he may have even been on the receiving end at the municipal level—when a former Treasurer made the firm commitment on behalf of the government of Ontario in those days and his successors, that the grants to the municipalities would go up at least as fast as the cost of providing services went up with inflation.

In those days the inflation rate was at the astronomical and frightening level of about 5.5 per cent. It was not long before the Treasurer's successor had to renounce that commitment and the matter was raised here in the House many times. Certainly the government of the day was criticized by those people with municipal responsibilities, including the present minister in his former incarnation.

It really is a shame that the province has let municipalities down so severely in this connection. It is easy for them to criticize the government of Canada, which in essence has taken the same route. The government of Canada has said the costs of the programs it shares with the provinces have escalated so far beyond the realm of any previous projections, that there has to be a complete reassessment of the provincial-federal sharing techniques that have grown up since 1945.

Much to our consternation, the Parliament of Canada has renounced those sharing techniques and it really means that what we would normally expect to come from the Treasury of Canada in support of all of our programs, including these unconditional grants, is less than we would like.

Looking at the budgetary figures provided a year ago by the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller), if one adds up all of the federal contributions to shared cost programs and those which are unconditional, as well as the federal responsibility to collect our personal income taxes, one soon realizes the government of Canada has the responsibility of raising over 40 per cent of the total number of dollars spent through the

Treasury of Ontario. I noted recently when somebody in the east end of Toronto opened yet another William G. Davis school, that in spite of the fact education is 100 per cent a provincial responsibility, there were a good many dollars replacing those provincial dollars, at least to the extent of 40 per cent.

I know Mr. Chairman is beginning to look at me with his piercing grey eyes and is about to wield his gavel. I simply want to point out that the municipalities are deeply disappointed with the decisions taken by the government of Ontario in the establishment of unconditional grants.

Naturally they welcome the speeding up of any payments which are going to reduce the interest costs that normally would accrue to them, but the municipalities are facing pressures that are probably even greater than those we face here, because since 1971 we have learned in Ontario that even though we cannot tax or raise the dollars to cover our expenditures, all we have to do is send down to Salomon Brothers in New York and they send us wads of money to cover our costs.

Our Treasury critic predicts that when the Treasurer gets up nerve enough to come in with another budget, the deficit will be well in excess of \$2 billion.

5:10 p.m.

Our municipalities do not have such luxury since their fiscal responsibilities are directly controlled by the government of Ontario through its emanation the Ontario Municipal Board. They must either cut back services or go forward with additional taxation on the restricted tax base to which they have access. In many municipalities taxes have reached their limit and people are banding together to offer the sort of objections that all of us as politicians must recognize and respond to.

It is difficult for the minister in his second row position in this government to have the kind of influence with the Treasurer that would result in additional support for municipalities. It is also difficult, particularly given the Conservative state of mind, to see clear public response in any effort they might make to assist the municipalities in meeting their heavy and growing financial responsibilities.

It has become traditional with the government of Ontario that rather than assist municipalities in a responsible way through the unconditional grant process, they let the municipalities raise local taxes to unconscionably high levels and then come out with high-profile provincial

programs whereby the Treasurer, the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Ashe) or the Premier (Mr. Davis) sends a cheque directly to the overburdened local taxpayer gathering up the political credit, such as it is, in large bags just before an election.

Frankly, I am quite interested that the government of Canada is starting to learn a lesson from the Big Blue Machine in Ontario. They have finally decided they do not want to ship all sorts of money, amounting to 40 per cent of the budget of the province, down here while the politicians representing the government of Ontario gather the political credit to themselves. At both levels, it strikes me as an inadequate basis for a modern democratic government, but there it is.

I do not know whether it was Lorne Henderson or Darcy McKeough who taught so well, but somebody was a good teacher and you people have learned not to support the junior government in any effective way. You let the pressures on them grow and then bring out these expensive provincial programs under which you send out cheques to senior citizens, farmers, or anyone else who is hard pressed and numerous enough to create a favorable response to your political engineering.

I do not like that procedure. The minister himself, a fair-minded person and basically a municipal politician, must flinch from time to time when he sees the attitude of his colleagues towards municipalities. It is regrettable and I wish there was something we could do to change it.

The Edmonton commitment is fading into history and this minister feels hardly a twinge of embarrassment when it is raised because it was his predecessor's predecessor, and perhaps even a couple of generations beyond that, who established his policies in conjunction with John White, who is now looking after Ontario's heritage. I suppose it is fitting that the whole thing be allowed to recede into political history.

I know the minister does make certain municipal commitments of a type which in many respects are not that admirable. There are certain aspects to municipal development where he has made a personal commitment that is almost difficult to understand.

I refer to a very large development in my own constituency, the new town of Townsend, about to eat up its 60-millionth dollar of public funds. All of us were invited to attend a tour and I think about three people finally made it, in spite of the fact that the minister laid on a fine lunch. We

were taken to the centre of this new town which will receive some of these unconditional grants, even though it exists only as part of the city of Nanticoke, which is another interesting development based on the policy of the government of Ontario.

The city of Nanticoke is largely a rural area. I believe the minister is familiar with the situation there, which reflects in many respects the inadequacies of the planning at the provincial level that went into the decisions that created that regional government. The city of Nanticoke is responsible for the affairs of Townsend but because of the imposition of provincial policies on them they really have little or no direction or decision-making powers in that respect.

If you go into the centre of this new city you will see that the minister himself, through the Ontario Land Corp., has ordered a development that is really breathtaking. It is quite interesting in that these edifices are all built, the waterways are created and yet there is no one there. It is almost a feeling of building a ghost town in advance as you walk through these great corridors of buildings and see the steps a city block long going down into the artificially created lake. You would swear you are on the shores of the Ganges where the burning steps, or whatever they are, go down into the sacred waters, except there is no one there worshipping or even renting space in the shops the minister has created with so many hundreds of thousands and millions of public dollars of these unconditional grants.

I am very much concerned that the minister, having inherited this strange emanation of the vision of John White, feels constrained to insist that it go forward to fruition. In many respects, he should have followed the example of so many of his predecessors who abandoned some of the programs that had been brought forward at a time when it was obvious that nobody in his right mind would have even undertaken them.

I am not sure whether being in your right mind is the phrase that the minister himself used at the same time his predecessor bought half a township down in eastern Ontario, Edwardsburgh. I think the minister was just about to begin his skyrocketing ascent into the power politics of the Conservative Party when it was rumoured that his predecessor was going to buy that property. I think he said that anybody who bought that property for development would have to be nuts. Wasn't that the word he used?

Mr. Conway: He said, "They must be off their nut."

Mr. Nixon: I am assisted by my friend, the member for Renfrew North. He said at the time, "They must be off their nut." I was a bit mistaken in this connection.

It was done at precisely the same time that the same visionary, John White, who had made the Edmonton commitment they so readily forgot, had bought the properties down in Townsend and South Cayuga that were going to be the twin cities that were going to be the sinecure of all political attention and the visionary development of the new metropolitan Ontario.

Mr. Conway: He was right about Edwardsburgh.

Mr. Nixon: My colleague points out that the minister was entirely right in his first comment about Edwardsburgh. He was successful in persuading his colleagues to abandon their first view of it and I understand it is now an experiment in growing poplar trees for making alcohol. I am not sure what the minister has in mind in that respect but I hope it will eventually be to the benefit of all the members of the House.

I do also want to say something about the youth employment program. This is an extremely serious matter since the minister is well aware that the level of unemployment of those people under 20 years old—and I believe the statistics usually refer to youth employment as under 25—is really appallingly high, and that the program here with an additional \$1.6 million is really not going to meet the needs, particularly of the students. This is in addition—

Hon. Mr. Bennett: That is just to cover last year's expenses. It has nothing to do with the current program.

5:20 p.m.

Mr. Nixon: I see. Then I will modify my comments and indicate the fact that you needed \$1.6 million more for last year's program is an indication of how inadequate your planning for this year is. I understand your colleague, the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies), who is not in his seat just at this moment, and I certainly do not criticize him for that because I know just how busy he is, has some of the responsibility, in fact one of the main responsibilities, for supervising the distribution of this money in a program which is going to give young people, particularly students, an opportunity for experience. Even more important than that, it will give them an opportunity to earn a few bucks so they can continue their education.

Inadequate government programs in this

connection have been of great concern to people in all parties in and out of this House. The statistics are a clear indication that this government has not supported initiatives taken in Ottawa in such a way that we can really see that young people in Ontario are going to have the opportunities they deserve. To cut them off, particularly because of the province's economic downturns, which are greater here than in most other provinces and certainly those to the west of us, has once again applied the sorts of unnatural pressures that see to it that many of these young people leave Ontario, which is to our detriment.

I certainly do not want to say in any way that young people should not go west. I wish I were young enough to respond to that challenge myself, but I have a feeling I would have a little difficulty getting into the Legislature of Alberta, although I understand the Liberals are becoming much more popular out there than they have been.

Mr. Roy: You would not know how to farm out there.

Mr. Nixon: Farmers out there have oil wells in the back 40 and that helps when one is milking cows.

The rental construction loan program is a matter of concern as well. Once again, the minister is indicating that he is getting money to pay for programs that have already been in effect. The minister is aware that because of the inadequacies of the provincial program, something like 15 rental units were constructed by the private sector in the whole city of Toronto. I know he has already indicated his view that ordinary people, whatever they are, should not look forward to living in Toronto anyway. Somehow, it is reserved for people with high incomes or ministers of the crown or something like that.

The fact that government policies right across the board, but particularly having to do with the rental industry, have reduced the initiative in the private sector to such an extent that rental accommodation is simply not being built in the Metropolitan area in any significant way, and in the city of Toronto practically none, must be a matter of grave concern for him.

As members know, the kind of rental accommodation that is built in the city of Toronto is the kind that is built by the minister's buddy, J. J. Barnicke, who has just completed this edifice a few steps from Queen's Park, where I understand some of the minister's colleagues are renting accommodation for \$1,000 to \$1,200 a

month. But, of course, there is a full-time steam-bath there which seems to be a requirement for—well, anyway, these facilities are the type that have nothing to do with the needs of the community at large.

I presume it was built to accommodate the very special needs of the minister's colleagues who have these fabulous resources at their disposal for their accommodation here in Toronto.

My colleague the member for Erie (Mr. Haggerty) says that it is handy. It is right next door to Suncor, so I suppose that in some respects the two go hand in hand.

Mr. Conway: The minister has a house.

Mr. Nixon: We will leave that for another speech. As good friends of the minister, I suppose in the long run since the money is already spent, we will have to support this additional \$38 million. We do not want to leave him high and dry, and of course, we also do not want to spend the time to divide the House, but we are concerned with the direction of the minister's policy. We will have a better opportunity to deal with it in detail during the general estimate discussion.

Mr. Breaugh: Mr. Chairman, I want to touch briefly on some matters of concern to me under the unconditional grants. One thing that bothers me a bit is that this kind of an opener is in place. Perhaps it is an indication that we are going to see kind of a trickle down effect, if you will pardon me using those words, this year and perhaps in the foreseeable future from the federal government's position to adopt funding mechanisms quite similar in fact to what Ontario has made a pattern of over the last few years. That is, they will begin the process of entering into the game of really cutting back financial transfer payments to other levels of government, but confuse it with the argument that the dollar amount is perhaps the same or slightly larger but percentages are not to be considered.

In the federal House, Bill C-97 is the beginning of the federal government's realization that the technique, which has been used by Ontario in dealing with its municipalities, school boards and hospitals over the last few years is one the federal government is now going to use to put the brakes on expenditures. The difficulty is reflected in this amount of money before us now. It is very difficult for a municipal government to get a good handle on its financial future, or in fact on its actual financial picture this year, when the government of Ontario continues to

put forward unconditional grants in this form. It is unfortunate that municipalities across the province cannot have a more concrete commitment about funding on a longer term than this government is prepared to provide to them.

This amount of money is an indication that our municipalities are in trouble financially. Many of them have severe economic difficulties at a time when both senior levels of government are putting the brakes on their transfer payments, and when their local economy is flat on its rear end. In most of our automotive communities we are now beginning the process of trying to reflect the impact of unemployment and high interest rates on the local economy in the city's budget for this year.

In Oshawa, Windsor, St. Thomas, Oakville and in several other parts of Ontario, municipal governments are going to have to recognize that people who do not have jobs and people who are threatened with the loss of their houses because they cannot afford the interest rates are going to have some difficulty coming up with financing at a local level. Whether one is talking about a property tax or, in some instances, payment for the use of a facility, or whether it is a licensing fee, the hard fact remains that a municipality in that kind of condition now has to make a hard assessment of that impact on the local budget.

It would be reassuring to think the government of Ontario, in its budget, was preparing some kind of community adjustment fund to deal with those local municipalities and the problems it knows they are going to have this year. It would also be comforting to know that the province had informed those municipalities of what they might expect, because all of them are now attempting to finalize budget procedures, attempting to nail down for the forthcoming fiscal year what their revenues will be, where they will get them, either from the province or from their local residents. They are going to have some difficulty.

Ontario is making some small move here to accommodate them with the moneys that are allocated in this particular vote. That is not to say this amount of money is a small amount by a long shot, but in terms of operational accounts for municipalities across the province it is a rather minuscule part of the budget process they will go through. They are going to have great difficulty this year in my area and in almost every area you can name. You cannot go through the newspapers anywhere in Ontario without seeing a reflection of the economic times in which we live, or without seeing there

are plants closing in every one of our communities.

There were people demonstrating in downtown Toronto this afternoon about the effect of interest rates on their lives, on their homes, on the businesses where they work and on the things they used to buy but no longer will buy. So there is going to be a dramatic impact on municipal budgets all through the course of this year. I have some hope that the government of Ontario is beginning to realize that is going to be dramatic. It is going to be a matter of great concern, I suppose, in Treasury, when the government puts together its budget this year, as to how it will address itself to that.

Many of us who came out of municipal politics will understand that unconditional grants originally sounded like a good idea, because the basic premise was that they are grants that do not have conditions on them but essentially are operational grants going to municipalities. They sounded like a good thought because originally they were proposed to us on the basis that they would give municipalities a little more freedom. What somebody forgot to tell us, I guess, was that you sometimes have to beg to get them. In the course of any given year you will see a stream of municipal officials parading around Queen's Park trying to find ministers in their offices, arranging little meetings here, there and all over the place, to try to get their share of the pie.

5:30 p.m.

In theory, the funding arrangements are reasonably clear. In practice they are not, and every municipality in the province depends on access to the minister to see if it can make its pitch to get its share of this. Many members have recognized that the government of Ontario uses unconditional grants as a kind of rescue operation. It is the other side of the process. We are saying that if the unconditional grants program is the floor for municipal expenditures and one builds on that from programs the province has devised and runs through its municipalities, it might not be quite so bad. In fact, the province moves more and more into identification with moneys it gives out to individuals in our communities.

I guess the senior citizens' property tax is the classic example of this government's determination to get individual home owners to understand that the cheques in their hot little hands comes from the province. It advertises extensively on television to make sure that message is heard. The only slipup has been that it seems to

have demonstrated over the last year and a half an inability to deliver a program. It screws up, fouls up and delays, and all the while it is doing that it is tantalizing the population with this message: "All these moneys are available to you. All you have to do is ask." Quite logically, the people of Ontario are asking and are unable to get much of an answer.

In that sense, the unconditional grants program is fraught with problems and difficulties. This year we are going to face an economy that is in trouble. To be more specific, we are going to face several municipalities that will have grave difficulties balancing the books.

I anticipate the restraint program will be continued from the federal government to the provincial government and eventually the people who will have to face the music will be those who sit on municipal councils. They will have to bear the brunt of that. They will take considerable abuse. The alternative will be to raise property taxes for a population which may not be able to meet the property taxes if they were left where they are.

There is going to be a jam-up in the system. Unfortunately, I predict the jam-up will occur most directly, and first and foremost, at the municipal level. It is going to be difficult to deal with.

The second matter I want to deal with is the youth employment program. It goes back to some comments I just made. This economy is in dire straits and, if the Prime Minister is looking for it, that is where it is. This summer there will be nothing for all kinds of young people who traditionally would have gone into places like auto plants for summer work, and who depended on that bit of financial security over a six- or eight-week period, and sometimes a bit longer, to raise money for things like tuition fees to go back to school, to clothe themselves and similar kinds of expenditure.

It is going to have to be recognized that a program like the youth employment program with all of its faults will have to be dramatically extended, because there are no jobs in those plants for regular workers, let alone student employees over the summer. Some device in a far more efficient form than this youth employment program will have to be put in place to take care of the young unemployed over the course of this summer.

The situation is going to be of dramatic proportions, because the places they would normally go to for employment are going to be shut down. The places they would normally turn

to are going to be places having great difficulty holding on to their existing permanent staff. The work they might look for with a municipality, for example, is going to be precisely the kind of program the municipalities will have to start chopping away at.

The government of Ontario will have to regear that program. It will have to make it far more effective and extensive than it has been in past experience.

A lot of what people anticipated from this youth employment program did not materialize. People felt there would be opportunities for jobs in small businesses and on the farms. It is my sad information that on the ground, where that thing happened, those jobs in many cases did not materialize at all. In fact, there was considerable exploitation of young people who thought they were getting into some program operated in part by Ontario. That was not necessarily true, but that was their perception. They found themselves getting into slave workshop situations.

It is unfortunate the government would participate in programs without any supervision of the nature of the program, and without any real checking and assessment of whether the program worked and provided employment for young people at decent rates of pay in decent working conditions.

I wanted to bring those two points to the attention of the House. There are several members of the caucus who want to participate in the debate and I want to make room for them. In particular, there are many who want to talk about the second part of this vote, on the Ontario Mortgage Corp.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Chairman, I thought I should make a very few brief comments pertaining to these three items. I have been a keen observer of the demeanour of the minister over all the years going back to our common election in 1971 in Ottawa, and I have seen a look of joy and happiness on the minister's face since he has been given the combined portfolio of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

I can recall his frustration at being Minister of Housing when the job at times resembled that of Leader of the Opposition. You get all the abuse, all the dirty jobs and none of the glory of having a position of importance. Now he has the Municipal Affairs portfolio, and he has the potential to visit right across the province. Knowing his enthusiasm for being present when the cheques are given out, I think he will somehow work it on the basis that if all the

unconditional grants, the \$35 million, could be reduced to numbers of cheques and he could visit all the major municipalities to hand over the cheques personally, he will attempt to do so.

I know he greatly enjoys this type of local community participation, getting together with some of his municipal colleagues. When the minister is delivering government funds and participating in giving out these cheques, he displays as much enthusiasm as if the money were coming out of his own pocket. He makes people feel grateful for his good humour and largess in coming down and personally handing out the cheques. Obviously all these situations greatly improve his demeanour.

I support my colleague the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk and his criticism that because of government abuses in other areas—he talked about the various housing town sites that have been referred to, the new cities, the pipe dreams of former Treasurer John White—the minister has seen fit to perpetuate these cities, except in some cases.

My colleague did not mention that one of these sites was not designated for a city, but for a waste dump. As long as it was in a Liberal riding, that was acceptable. If the minister were more conscious of the waste in other areas, there would be more funds for municipalities to be able to meet the burden they currently have because of the great demand on the municipalities for services.

Of all the ministers here, he has been as critical as any when a federal-provincial program is cut back or discontinued, talking about irresponsibility at the federal government level. The same thing happens at the municipal level when a provincial-municipal program is cut back. I am convinced, as my colleague has said, that if there were a cutback in waste in many areas, there would be more money for unconditional grants, for youth employment, for rentals and so on. It bothers me to see such waste.

5:40 p.m.

Just recently I had occasion to read our national magazine, *Maclean's*, which I am sure you read on a regular basis, Mr. Chairman. In the March 22 issue I saw the minister's name prominently displayed in an ad, which is one the Chairman will find interesting, because it talks about waste.

The ad, which appeared one day after the first day of spring, asks, "Are you going to spend another winter heating the great outdoors?" Here is a full-page ad in *Maclean's* from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

telling people they should be looking closely at winterizing their homes, while we are in the spring season.

I do not know how much this ad cost and I do not know whether the ad appeared in previous issues of Maclean's, but I consider it to be a waste of taxpayers' money to tell people to do something after the fact. I want to say to the minister, generally speaking—

Hon. Mr. Bennett: There will not be another winter?

Mr. Roy: There will not be another winter? The minister should know something about timing, having conducted so many elections. It is just like putting up billboards now for the election in 1986.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: That bothers you, doesn't it? That bothers you.

Mr. Roy: I say the House deserves an explanation as to why he would waste thousands of dollars telling people to winterize their homes in the spring. He states in the ad itself, and I underlined this, "During the winter, the drafts are stronger and colder so it is easier to find them." But the winter is over. We are into spring. Not even he could have predicted the inclement weather.

This is the type of waste and bad timing that he and his colleagues in the government are guilty of. If this is the type of competence his people in the ministry are exhibiting in the processing of these grants, in the processing of housing and in last year's funding of youth employment, it is not very promising. I think the people of Ontario deserve an explanation for the waste of public funds.

I will not take any time in the House just now to talk about the grant the minister is going to receive for his own private housing. It may be the subject of some other discourse. Again, that is an abuse of public funds by the minister. But that will be the subject of some further discussion.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Chairman, I would like to deal with just a couple of issues, in particular under the Ontario Mortgage Corp. There is a non-profit corporation known as the Annex Community Corp. which exists on Madison Avenue in downtown Toronto. As I understand it, 14 units are rent-geared-to-income units in that nonprofit housing corporation.

The project consists of nine houses and an apartment building of 12 apartments. The corporation came into existence about eight years ago, but the Ontario Housing Corp. has been paying its portion of the old mortgage

since January. However, in September, an additional mortgage had to be floated because of additional construction costs of some \$800,000.

The mortgage was added to the original mortgage at eight per cent through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp., because of the additional construction costs, which had not been anticipated. This project has been in the process of being developed over a period of years and has run into various kinds of zoning problems, the need to consult with the heritage foundation and so forth.

OHC, I understand, is now only paying its share at the original mortgage cost, and I believe that on January 26, 1982, that corporation provided information that was requested by this ministry, to the attention of Mr. A. Gorizzan. At the same time the corporation is having to subsidize the rent-geared-to-income, or OHC tenants if you like, from the rents of the nonsubsidized tenants, who are paying at the new rate as of April 1.

I hope the minister will look into this and see whether he can find out what is holding up OHC's portion and whether OHC will be increasing its payments so that the nonsubsidized tenants do not have to carry the extra burden.

The other matter I would like to discuss deals with the rental construction program. There is desperate shortage of rent-geared-to-income housing in Metro Toronto at the moment; around 14,000 households, representing approximately 35,000 people, are on the waiting list for assisted housing.

The Ontario community housing assistance program has not delivered any significant increase in the rent-geared-to-income units in the co-operative and nonprofit sectors, with less than 100 units in Metro Toronto committed since April 1, 1981.

The private rent supplement program has not been able to expand its program appreciably, with only nine new units signed on in 1981 and 93 units dropped off; thus we had, in 1981, a depletion of 84 units in Metro.

The Ontario rental construction loan program, which is spending \$90 million, is creating 5,230 units in Metro but none of them will necessarily be committed to rent supplements. There is no binding agreement that guarantees any of the units will be rent-supplemented. Even though the contract requires that up to 25 per cent of the units in a complex must be offered, it does not have a binding requirement that they be offered.

One must admit that the ORCL program has

been fairly generous to certain areas west of here, such as the Bramalea area. Part of this we can understand, because that is where land is readily available—some 1,245 units for subsidy in Brampton. The turnover rate in the OHC portfolio in Metro has been declining steadily in the past three years: 12 per cent in 1979, 11 per cent in 1980 and 10 per cent in 1981.

My question to the minister is, what do you intend to do about increasing the critical shortage of rent-assisted housing in Metro? It appears that this is not substantially on the increase in proportion to the number of people who very badly need it in this time of recession.

Is the minister willing to guarantee that the maximum number of units under ORCL will be taken up under the rent supplement program, that they will be guaranteed and not just an option? Will the minister also consider adding increased funding and flexibility to OCHAP to permit municipal nonprofits, co-operatives and private nonprofits to vary the number of rent-geared-to-income units; in other words, to increase it above the limits now imposed on it?

Those are a few of the questions I hope the minister will find interesting and might like to respond to.

5:50 p.m.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Chairman, I believe we are dealing with both votes together. I have one question on the student employment program. My colleague mentioned the great need for increasing that program this year, particularly in view of the layoffs in the auto plants and other industrial sectors where people used to get summer jobs.

There is another area where summer employment is badly needed and this government's programs do not cover it at present. The minister should be considering it for his own ministry in particular, and he should be urging the extension of the program I am going to suggest to the cabinet in general.

I am referring to the problem of mature students at universities, those who are over 25 and who get cut out of most of the student employment programs on the ground that they are not considered to be youths. They are university or college students who have courses that run over more than one year. They therefore need summer employment to earn a proportion of their tuition fees.

I urge the minister to consider allotting additional funds to provide employment for those students. I hope he will urge the cabinet to do the same in other ministries. That is my first

point. Is the minister going to deal with all of these together?

The Deputy Chairman: The minister is accumulating the points of the different presentations and will then respond.

Ms. Bryden: I also want to speak about the Ontario Mortgage Corp. I understand the corporation has renewed a considerable number of mortgages this year and that the interest rates are now tied to, or are somewhat below, the National Housing Act rates.

When a renewal comes up, if there is going to be a substantial increase in the interest rate will the ministry consider some relief for those people who may face large increases in their mortgage payments? Is the ministry considering or is it actually following a practice of moderating that increase, either by extending the amount of the mortgage at the far end to keep the increase down or by some of the other devices that have been suggested to relieve those who are in what is now known as dire straits?

Under the mortgage corporation, the ministry is a fairly large mortgage holder and should be leading the way in showing some compassion for people who face large interest rate increases and in working out some system to postpone those increases for a period until the person can adjust or until interest rates come down. With the government following slavishly the interest rate policies of Ottawa, we do not seem to be doing much to bring them down. That is my first question on the mortgage corporation.

The other thing is that the ministry did put in the Ontario rental construction loan program last year. Its initial target was 10,000 units, which was then raised to 15,000. I would like to know how many units we have achieved already and when we can expect to reach the 15,000 units. I would like to know whether the program has really dried up. The interest-free loan is still at \$6,000 and probably is not sufficient to attract people into the market in the light of present construction costs and the problem of providing affordable housing.

The New Democratic Party has produced its program for increasing rental housing; it was outlined by our leader about four weeks ago in a speech. We propose that if the government is going to increase rental housing, and all of us agree that it is very necessary to put big money into it, it has to put interest-free loans of at least \$10,000 on the market. The government has to aim for at least 15,000 units in the next year to

even begin to meet the demand and stimulate the construction industry.

It seems to me this is an opportunity to do two things at once: stimulate the construction industry, which is very badly underemployed at the moment, and increase the number of rental housing units. But it cannot be done without putting very substantial sums into the rental construction loan program.

I would also like to ask whether the rental construction loan program extends to co-operatives and municipal nonprofit housing. It seems to me that we should be developing these sectors. The private sector has shown it is neither able nor willing to produce affordable rental housing; it has simply copped out or is using any land it has to provide luxury housing.

Instead, we must provide land through land banking programs, which would include loans for purchasing redevelopment lands and grants for writing down the cost of redevelopment lands. These lands should be made available to co-ops and nonprofit municipal housing bodies. They, in turn, have to get their mortgage money from somewhere. They can get a certain amount from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. at certain interest rates. But if we are going to get the stimulation we need to counteract the severe housing industry decline this year, I think we have to put up substantial sums of money.

The money could be raised through a housing investment bond, which really would be an investment in capital assets for this province—capital assets that are very badly needed. I think it is time for the ministry to start looking at this sort of a program and considering exactly what

has to be done to get the housing industry going again.

In particular, the minister should be looking at the situation in Metropolitan Toronto, where the vacancy rate is now 0.4 per cent and where people are being turned out of affordable housing so that it can be redeveloped into luxury housing. Since we do not have demolition control over such activities, our apartments are being turned into condominiums. We do not have laws that stop reconversion on a province-wide basis.

The housing crisis in Metropolitan Toronto is becoming very serious. Last night at city hall in Toronto, close to 200 people assembled to discuss the housing crisis before the neighbourhoods committee. That committee had something like 70 recommendations before it from the mayor's conference on housing. Those recommendations dealt with a great many areas in which the minister could help, particularly in providing mortgages for rental construction and nonprofit housing development.

I think the minister will be hearing from representatives of the city of Toronto on what they expect him to do to help them solve the housing crisis in Metropolitan Toronto. I hope he will be looking at their proposals and all these recommendations, most of which were adopted last night.

Another thing he should be looking at is our new Innovation Development for Employment Advancement Corp.

The House recessed at 6:01 p.m.

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Ontario

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

No. 19

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)



Second Session, Thirty-Second Parliament

Tuesday, April 6, 1982

Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, April 6, 1982

The House resumed at 8:02 p.m.
House in committee of supply.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING (concluded)

On vote 603, municipal affairs program; and vote 2206, Ontario mortgage program.

Ms. Bryden: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I adjourned the debate at six o'clock I was asking the minister to comment on the New Democratic Party program to try to get a turnaround in the house construction industry and housing starts in Ontario. I mentioned our leader Bob Rae had proposed what was needed to get housing going was an injection of \$150 million in the form of 15,000 interest-free loans at \$10,000 each. I thought the Ontario Mortgage Corp. could put its money into that rather than into some of the other projects it has been funding in this particular fiscal year.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Which one would the member cut out?

Ms. Bryden: The Suncor deal would be the first thing we would cut out. I would say housing is a top priority.

I would like to draw the minister's attention to the effect of putting 15,000 new units under construction this year. There would be about 18,000 construction and directly related jobs. In addition, a further 14,000 jobs would be needed for the indirectly related industries such as furniture manufacture, carpet and drapery supply and so on.

Finally, it would provide about \$8 million in provincial sales tax, which would interest the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Ashe), and over \$500 million in wages, over \$20 million in provincial income tax and \$50 million in federal income tax. This kind of stimulation of the economy is far more important than buying up oil companies in Alberta.

I was also going to say we have a new corporation called the Innovation Development for Employment Advancement Corp. which I gather is the key pin of the government's employment creation program. It was passed

last fall. Its objective is to promote innovative development for employment advancement. I can see no greater area where innovative development is needed than in the field of low-cost housing.

I would like to suggest that the minister ask the IDEA Corp. to take the development of low-cost housing innovative programs as its first priority. This, we hope, could bring down the cost of houses and also provide more diversified housing that would suit families, handicapped, singles and all the people who need additional shelter.

It would also provide jobs and help to put us in the technological forefront. What we develop might also be saleable in other parts of the continent. I hope it would be more saleable than what the Urban Transportation Development Corp. is producing at the moment. It is certainly something he should ask the IDEA Corp. to get into.

Those were two of the things I was raising with him. I also raised the question of the treatment of people with mortgages from the Ontario Mortgage Corp. who may be faced with large interest rate increases, and whether any consideration is being given at the present time to help alleviate the burden on those who will find it a heavy load to bear if rates go up. I would like the minister to respond to those items.

Mr. Philip: The minister is behind the times again.

Mr. Breaugh: Stop watching the clock, Mr. Chairman.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Treleaven): We are checking to see whether it has been reset at the correct time. The member for Nickel Belt.

Mr. Breaugh: He has lost his little stool but he is on his feet.

Mr. Laughren: It is not that funny.

Mr. Breaugh: We're on your side, remember.

Mr. Philip: We measure you from the shoulders up, not the shoulders down.

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Chairman, I find it ironical we are debating something referred to as youth employment. One would think we would never need to debate unemployment among our young

people in this country. If any group of people should automatically be taken into the work force, it should be the young people.

It is not as easy a question to answer as the question of what to do with people in the summer time. It is not a question of student unemployment. It is a question of unemployment among our young people. The real answers are not the ad hoc programs the government brings forth, either at the provincial level or the federal level. The answer is the restructuring of the economy in this province and in this country to make it automatic that young people have employment opportunities whenever they finish school.

That implies intervention on the part of the public sector to make this a reality, but this government believes in intervention only when it is necessary to prop up the private sector. It does not believe in intervention in a direct way on the part of the public sector to create new wealth and jobs for our young people.

It is not simply a case of providing jobs for people between semesters when they are in post-secondary institutions. It is a question of providing employment for people who have graduated. It is only about three days since I had a phone call from a young man who graduated with an honours degree. He had been working but was laid off within the last two months. Now he is being pressured by the bank to repay his student loan. This person has been out of school for about four years and had only about \$200 left to pay on his student loan.

As it turned out, his wife was also a university graduate who had been laid off and also had only about \$200 left to pay on her student loan. Here is a young married couple with a child being pressured by the bank to repay their student loans when they have been laid off.

When I see that waste of human potential and human resources, I look at the system this government has created and I could weep. It really is pathetic. It speaks volumes more than any position the government might take on any particular issue. What it is really saying is this government is letting the marketplace determine priorities for young people in Ontario. That is a sad commentary and I hope the minister, when he replies to the various opposition members, will tell us how he can possibly justify two people like this being laid off, not being given any opportunities by the system and the government not moving in to fill that void.

That is one example I wanted to use of youth unemployment.

8:10 p.m.

Here is another one. A young man came to me and said: "You are going to have to help me. I cannot understand the system out there." I said: "Well, you have come to the wrong person because I don't understand it either. But let's talk about it." He said he had been working, then had been laid off and had applied for unemployment insurance benefits. This young man was entitled to unemployment insurance benefits; he was seeking employment, he was available for work and he had contributed the required number of weeks in order to draw benefits.

As he sat there collecting benefits and looking for a job, an opportunity came up to enrol in a skills training program, a gas fitters program. He enrolled in the gas fitters program from 8:30 in the morning until 3:30 in the afternoon. At 3:30, he went out and sought employment. He went around to the required number of places, put his name in, kept track of it and went to the Canada Manpower counsellor and said: "Look what a good boy I am. I have applied to all these people for jobs."

The Canada Manpower counsellor said, "Yes, you may have done that but you are going to school, and we are going to cut you off"; and they did. They cut the young man off his unemployment insurance benefits. At that point, the young man said: "Wait a minute now. What did I do wrong? Should I not have gone to school in order to improve my qualifications to get a job? Is that not what I should have done?" The Canada Manpower counsellor said: "That is correct. That is not what you should have done. You should not have enrolled in a program in order to improve your qualifications for employment. You should just stay where you are and seek employment without improving yourself." Is that not a ridiculous system you people built? Absolutely ridiculous.

The third instance I would like to raise is the question of the people who have just become unemployed, many of them young people, because of the large work reduction program at Inco Metals Co. in Sudbury. The number of people who will lose their jobs right now is about 190. To this day, this government, despite the noises made by the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope), has done nothing to make sure those people will be employed in any kind of alternative employment. They are simply sitting on their hands.

I do not know how the minister or anybody else over there can justify maintaining an economic system that says to people: "You are better off unemployed than in school. We don't want you unemployed and going to school in order to improve your qualifications." This government does absolutely nothing about any of those problems, and yet you are terribly proud of your system, aren't you?

In the days and months that have led to today, with major layoffs in the Sudbury area, I have never been prouder not to be a Tory. You people sit over there in smug satisfaction because you and your friends are employed and if things do get tight for them, you bail them out anyway and you do not lift a finger for the unemployed in this province, not a finger.

If you need any proof of that, come up to Sudbury and I will introduce you to some unemployed people who desperately want to work. Come up to Sudbury and I will introduce you to university graduates, highly qualified people, who would desperately like to work and there are no opportunities for them. That is your system. It is not mine, thank goodness. Thank God it is your system and not mine, and I hope you people are very happy, very smug.

I sit here every day, during question period in particular, and I look across the aisle at the fat cats over there, very happy, evading the questions put to them, giving smart-ass answers to the opposition and never dealing with the real problems.

My colleague the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) asked the Premier (Mr. Davis) a question about a young, unemployed man in Oshawa. He said, "What are you going to do for Joe McCullough?" I thought it was one of the better moments in this Legislature because what the member for Oshawa was saying to the Premier was: "Do not give us a vague reply. I am giving the Premier the case of an individual who has a problem and I am asking him as the Premier of the province to tell us what we should tell Joe McCullough his future is. What is he going to do for the Joe McCulloughs of this world? What is he going to do for the university graduates who are unemployed in Ontario at this time?"

Does the minister know what he is doing? Absolutely nothing. Of course we are in the 1982 fiscal year, we all know that, but there is the minister standing up tabling his supplementary estimates for 1981 and getting approval for money in 1981. I would like to know from him just what he is going to do in 1982 to provide job

opportunities for young people in the province. What he is talking about are ad hoc summer employment opportunities which do not for a moment deal with the problems out there; not for a moment.

When I think of how this will spill over into problems with the student loans, we are heading for a very difficult time. It is not as simple as one of the members over there, the unemployed Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Eaton) who said they spent the money in all sorts of places, where are they going to get the money and so forth. We on this side are not the free spenders; not us. We are not the free-spending Socialists; they are the free spenders without ever creating the new wealth needed to provide services that we know can and should be delivered to the people of Ontario.

The finest service the minister could deliver to Ontario would be the opportunity for meaningful employment for everyone who wants to work—that is virtually everybody—but he is not doing it. I will be very interested in hearing his response.

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Chairman, I was interested in the minister's opening statement this afternoon when he talked about the Ontario rental program and the advance payments on completion of the apartment units, which I believe were increased from \$4,000 to \$6,000 a mortgage loan. I guess the funds were necessary because apparently the contractors or developers had speeded up the units to get them pretty well constructed for that year, which required an extra \$9 million.

On this side, we can appreciate the initiative the minister has provided for developers, particularly around the Toronto area and larger urban centres. My main concern is that I think the minister has forgotten about the average home owner in the province who is faced with foreclosure and those who have already lost their homes in a number of cases.

In the Niagara Peninsula riding I represent, a number of persons who have lost their homes because the interest rates have increased considerably have been brought to my attention. I can cite one now, and I know there are others, where a mortgage came up for renewal that moved from 11.5 per cent to 22.5 per cent. That really hurt a number of persons who were trying to purchase homes for their families.

There was no government help for those people. We can blame much of it on the federal government, but this government has some responsibility in this area too. When they can

find money through the Ontario Development Corp., which is supposed to create jobs, at interest rates from zero to 12 per cent—

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Are you knocking that?

8:20 p.m.

Mr. Haggerty: Yes, I am knocking it. If you can find it for one, surely you can find it for the home owner or the person who is purchasing a home in Ontario. Perhaps the minister and the government cannot see the advantages of people buying homes. It is a boon to the economy. It means buying lumber and all the appliances that go into the home. The investment is perhaps far greater there than in some of the ODC loans the government is providing.

I am not kicking that. All I am saying is I would like to see some equity in the system of providing funds to assist persons and industries that need help. It is rather shameful that this government and the federal government have let this matter of people losing their homes get out of hand.

There are ways the government could help those people if it wanted to get off its good intentions, if it has any good intentions. There is a policy I think is being looked at in the United States, and I think some states have adopted it already, which is to buy down these high mortgages. In other words, a person would for three or four years be able to adjust the huge increase. They are not going to give it to them for nothing, but it is a program where they are saying, "Here is some temporary help that will get you through this crunch of the high interest rates." I suggest this government has done nothing in this area to assist those individual home owners.

Many of the big businesses and the big developers have taken millions of dollars out of Ontario and headed for the southern part of the United States for development purposes. I do not have to tell the minister the names of them. He is familiar with those names. I am sure he is. I am saying he should have some equity and justice in his programs in Ontario. I thought the days were gone when a person could lose his home, but that is not the case. Through lack of planning by this government—

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Oh, no, no.

Mr. Haggerty: Oh, yes, yes.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Come on.

Mr. Haggerty: Yes, it is, through the lack of planning and foresight of this government. This government was on the bandwagon in all the good times and never had enough foresight to

say, "Let's set a little bit aside here." One could see the forecasts of the experts in this area that times were going to be tough. But not this government; it sat back, built schools by the dozens and spent millions of dollars on schools—

Hon. Mr. Bennett: You were delighted to be there for the opening.

Mr. Haggerty: Oh, no. I can remember the Premier (Mr. Davis) when he was Minister of Education coming in with the television crews to have it piped through every classroom saying, "Yes, I am cutting the ribbon tonight." If he had listened to the experts in the Ministry of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs at that time, if he had listened to the forecasts of population trends, he would not have built all the schools and would not have to close them now at a cost to the taxpayers and this government. But this government wanted to glorify everything, go out and have the grandstanding of opening these schools, colleges and maybe universities. Some of them are needed but I think they have overbuilt.

Why does the minister not come in with a program to assist the home owners, those persons who have been losing their homes through foreclosures? I have had many calls at my constituency office recently saying that one cannot even get a mortgage for five, 10 or 20 years. One cannot belong to the 25-year club any more. It is down to one year. Mortgages are being called in now and they are saying, "You are going to have to get it renewed."

Mr. Kolyn: They took off the ceiling in 1966.

Mr. Haggerty: Took off the ceiling?

Mr. Kolyn: It was six per cent for 25 years.

Mr. Haggerty: That government over there went along with it. It was an election gimmick back in 1975. I think it was the first-time home buyer's grant. The government went out and bought the voters that time with a program like that, not having the foresight to see what was coming two or three years down the road, the indications of the high interest rates that were coming about. This government is at fault with the high interest rates.

Mr. Roy: Sure they are. They are causing all those deficits.

Mr. Haggerty: You want to believe it, they are causing them all.

Interjections.

The Acting Chairman: Order.

Mr. Haggerty: Just think of the money this government has allowed to be borrowed off-

shore through Ontario Hydro. Only recently it went offshore for \$200 million, I believe. There is 20 cents exchange on the dollar plus the high interest rates on the other side. Do you call that good business?

This is an area that should be looked at. There are billions of dollars sitting here that could be tapped if the small investors—and I am talking about the persons who have money in trust companies, banks and credit unions—were given some incentive to invest. There is no reason why we cannot get that money working for the government and the investor himself as well as for the overall good of the province.

There are ways to go about giving that incentive. Instead of taxing a person to death, give him some encouragement to invest in provincial bonds to build houses. Put the provincial bank to use; instead of it sitting down there for savings alone, we should make some use of it.

The members are sleeping over on the government side. They do not know how to manage the economy; that is the whole trouble with them over there. They are poor managers over there.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Your friends in Ottawa are no great shakes.

Mr. Haggerty: Don't blame it on Ottawa. You have been in here for 40 years, and just look at your record.

Some hon. members: It's excellent.

Mr. Haggerty: Excellent, is it?

Mr. Watson: Yes, good government.

Mr. Haggerty: Go out and talk to the person on the street who is unemployed, who is losing his home, who has no shelter over his head. The government calls that a good record? The members sitting on the government side should be ashamed of themselves.

But the minute the big developers come in, you are right there with a handout. I know of some of your programs in my area, where you have gone out to a developer and given him the same programs; meanwhile, in his other unit he has increased the rent three times in six months. They are paying more rent for rental units in Port Colborne than they are in many places here in Toronto.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: What? He increased his rent three times? In the same unit?

Mr. Haggerty: Yes, three times in six months, because you have an exemption there after 1976; but the minister is not aware of it.

And you are going to do the same type of deal with the developer. You are going to give him some assistance with the high cost of building the apartment building, then let him sock it to the person who is going to come in to rent it. You are going to forget about the province's investment in it. It is almost like increasing the interest rates from 12 per cent to 22 or 24 per cent. That is what is going to happen even with the rental units that they are going to have here.

I suggest to the minister there are ways that he can help these people if he wants to get off his good intentions. And I hope that he does get off his good intentions, because there are many people out on the streets who are not too happy with this government or the government in Ottawa.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: It's good to hear you recognize that.

Mr. Haggerty: I do recognize that, and I say you are just as much to blame as those fellows up there.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: No, we're not.

Mr. Haggerty: Oh yes, you are.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Oh no, we're not.

Mr. Haggerty: When things are going great, you're sitting on Trudeau's lap.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Oh no, Trudeau jumped on ours.

Mr. Haggerty: Sure, just talk to your leader over there. He'll tell you. Whenever he can jump on the bandwagon with those fellows up there, he is with them.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Ask Joe Clark about the plan he offered. At least it was an attempt on somebody's part to try to help the home owners.

Mr. Haggerty: Joe who? Yes, you fellows know that. You killed everything that Joe wanted to bring about over there. You were the first ones who put him down. You over there defeated Joe. You know which side the bread is being buttered on when it comes to the federal fellows. You're part of them.

I suggest that there is a hardship out there; persons are losing their homes, and there are foreclosures out there. I suggest to the minister as a government leader, if I can put it that way, or as somebody who is supposed to have some say in caucus or in cabinet, he should get off his good intentions and do something for these people, because they need help. If you provide help for the farmers, if you provide it through the Ontario Development Corp. and other things for the automobile industry, it all creates

jobs, whether you are building houses or not. Then there are jobs; there will be employment. I suggest you move, and move more quickly than you are doing right now. I hope there will be something in the budget bringing in a program to assist those persons who are faced with high mortgage and interest rates.

8:30 p.m.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Chairman, I want to follow up on the comments that were made by my colleague the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) with regard to the Ontario youth employment program, and the failure of the government to respond to the serious needs of our youth who are looking for full-time employment. I just received a letter yesterday from the technical director of a high school in my riding, Central Algoma High School, and I will read a couple of portions of it.

It says: "I am a technical director in a high school and, as such, am responsible for about 450 students per year, approximately 120 of whom graduate each year with majors in electronics, machine shop, automotive, welding, building construction, sheet metal, nursing, foods, and sewing. Many of these students continue their education at the local community college or another provincial institution which offers a course of their choice.

"My own son is in this category. He and the other 83 machine shop students in his community college face graduation in May of 1982 with no jobs. Not only does this group of young men and women face job crisis, but the students returning from universities are in the same position for summer employment to assist them in financing their subsequent year, and next year there will be a considerable hike in tuition as well. This is a bleak prospect for our young people to face and poor, poor encouragement from their society and the government, to say the least."

He goes on to say: "Many of our local students have worked in Algoma Steel Corp. in years past but the layoffs will seriously curtail this opportunity." He is referring to summer employment as well as full-time employment for our young people. Further, he says, "My son has 10 applications out across the province, all rejected." Referring to the government, he says, "How can you face the youth of this country and justify this situation?" He ends his letter by saying to the government, "Get your head out of the sand. There is nowhere to go for these young men and women. I challenge the government to reply and to tell me an answer for our young

people. You are charged with that responsibility as an elected official."

I hope we will get some kind of response to this very sincere letter from the technical director at Central Algoma High School about the young people he is training for jobs. I would like to see what this ministry is doing in terms of providing summer employment for the young people who are getting their post-secondary education; but further than that, what is actually being done by this government, in any ministry, to deal with the serious job crisis we face for our young people. We are facing a situation where we will have a generation of workers who cannot find full-time, meaningful employment, who will then become discouraged to the point of going on the welfare rolls. As my colleague said they will be discouraged to the point of not even seeking employment. They will not be counted in the statistics when Statistics Canada looks at the unemployed in this country, and they will not have any hope at all.

Even if you are not directly concerned about them and their families, you should be concerned, as a government, with what this means for our society. If we have a generation of young people growing up who have no hope, and no future in terms of productive employment and of contributing to our society, then our society is going to have a major social problem and one that will come home to roost in the future. I hope this government can give us some kind of response. What is this government doing to deal with this major social problem?

Mr. Sargent: When will the government realize it does not have all the answers? On Monday morning a man came in to see me. He has four kids and his hands were beat up from working. He was a big, strong guy, but he sat there and cried because he had to get out of his house this weekend. What am I going to do for him?

It burns us all up that in Alaska they have six per cent mortgages and a booming housing business. They are called the SAM, state assisted mortgages. People get interest free bonds by putting into the fund. It is the biggest boom in the economy they have ever had.

Why in the hell can the ministry not do something right for a change without paying off the big guys in the establishment? Get down and do something for people. That is what this business is all about. The back-benchers are here because they have been successful in municipal politics and have been helping people

all their lives. What do they see when they come in here? The only thing the government is concerned about is helping the big corporations.

It is time we got back to the basic fact which is that the people of Ontario own this corporation and the government is tossing their money around like fools. Now, will the minister please tell me why he cannot have mortgages similar to the six per cent mortgages of the state of Alaska? Tell me that right now.

The Acting Chairman: Are there any other members who wish to speak?

Mr. Sargent: What is his answer to the question?

The Acting Chairman: I understand the minister is going to respond to all questions and statements at the end.

Mr. Mancini: We want to know the answer to that question.

The Acting Chairman: The minister can choose his time as to when he replies. Are there any other members who wish to speak?

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Chairman, I will continue again. Will the minister tell me why he rates to have two homes and one is being paid for out of his allowance, which cannot happen for the rest of us here? Why in hell does he get breaks like this while many of our people cannot even get one house to live in? Will he answer that question too while he is speaking?

The Acting Chairman: If no other members wish to speak to this matter, does the minister wish to make his closing statement and respond to the various comments and questions?

Mr. Ruston: On a point of order, I am sure the minister can do this but it does not mean that after the minister finishes, you then prohibit anyone else from speaking?

The Acting Chairman: That is quite correct.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Chairman, there were a number of interesting remarks made by members in the House this afternoon and again this evening.

In regard to the first vote which relates to the \$35 million on the Ontario unconditional grants and the advanced payments, I agree with some of the remarks made by the opposition members. There has to be a way of expediting payments to municipalities to try to reduce their requirements for borrowing. I omitted saying in my opening remarks that one of the things the

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is doing at the moment is trying to—

Mr. Laughren: This I have got to hear.

8:40 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: If the member would listen, he might hear. We have been trying to initiate a program through computerization to advance payments to municipalities on a monthly basis rather than once or twice a year. With this program, we hope we will be in a position to assist municipalities in reducing the requirement, as I have already said, for lump borrowing in the first three or four months of the new year.

A number of remarks have been made about the Ontario youth employment program. It has been a great program. Members from all sides of the House have been supportive of the program and have thought it to be worthwhile in their communities.

I indicated this afternoon that the reason for the requirement of an additional \$1.6 million is because of the honouring of applications in excess of the allocation for the program. I think it good management that we accept more applications than there are funds to cover, knowing that some applications will never materialize; but the latter is the employer's responsibility.

The program is directed towards the small business community. More than 92 per cent of the funds in 1981 were given to small business to produce something better than 53,000 jobs involving 21,800 employers.

I can only say that the additional \$1.6 million was money well spent and it went into the pockets of young people who had the opportunity to go back to places of higher learning in Ontario and I suppose other universities across Canada.

Moving to the \$2 million for the Ontario rental construction loan program, I want to clarify the situation because it appears that one or two people might have misinterpreted it. During the year we changed the loan program from the original \$4,200 per unit to \$6,000 to stimulate rental construction.

Because of continuously rising interest rates, we also said we would advance 50 per cent of the mortgage funding we provide, \$3,000 per unit, at roof completion. The original program provided for advance of the money only upon completion of the building. The change was intended to give further relief and stimulate activity.

There were a number of issues touched upon

that do not relate to any of the items we are dealing with tonight. The member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Sargent), the member for Beeches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden) and two or three other members referred to the rapid increase in mortgage rates relating to individual residential ownership in Ontario.

Last Friday, there were at least three questions from the Liberal Party, and indeed there could have been one or two from the New Democratic Party, to the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller). I think the member for Erie (Mr. Haggerty) raised the same question he is raising tonight. He raised the question to the Treasurer who said very clearly that he understood and sympathized with the problem.

Interest rates on mortgages or in any other area were not established by Ontario. It is fine for the member for Erie to wave his hand; I hope it does not fall off. I want to say to him very clearly that policy on national interest rates is exactly that, national. It does not start with Ontario nor with any of the nine provinces. The Treasurer said that as he prepares his budget he will review the situation with care and he hopes with some degree of support.

We have looked at the overall housing program. I recall a year ago listening to comments about the lack of rental accommodation and we fully recognized the need. That is why we brought the Ontario rental construction loan program into being in this province. Do not knock the private sector that is building those units because without them we would be in very great difficulty.

Whether it be in Ontario or any other province, in the United States or virtually any other country in the world, governments are all trying to stimulate rental construction with incentive programs. We believe this province brought in the right one. That is not to say the programs initiated in other jurisdictions are not good.

Mr. Nixon: Selling White Motors to the Americans.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: It is your friend Mr. Gray in Ottawa who might be doing that. I think you and the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. Walker) better have a little chat, but I understand it really stems from that particular location.

As a result of the Ontario rental construction loan program, we were able to provide a stimulus of something like 16,700 units in this province to the benefit of this economy and to the benefit of employment. So that the member

for Etobicoke (Mr. Philip) will understand, in the agreements we have with those developers, whether it be in Toronto, Metropolitan Toronto, Ottawa, London, Hamilton or any other of the 79 or 80 communities we are building in, it is clearly spelled out that 20 per cent of the units will be made available to the local housing authority for rent supplement purposes.

That is a guarantee. I do not know how the member for Etobicoke misreads the situation, but it is clearly an obligation upon the developer and the borrower of the funds from the province that those units will be made available, and I want to underline the word available, to the housing authority at the time of completion, to place people who are on the public housing waiting list, the nonprofit housing waiting list or whatever other waiting list there might be, and to use those particular units under a subsidized program which is cost-shared by the federal and provincial governments. It is clearly spelled out and I see no reason for any misunderstanding or twisting of the situation.

Mr. Philip: How many units in Metro?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: I have clearly indicated to this House on more than one occasion that in Metropolitan Toronto it is something in the range—and I am now trying to call to memory—of better than 3,700 units. I do admit, and the mayor of this community and I have discussed the problem, that there were only 10 units built in Toronto. I make no apologies to this House or to anyone else.

Perhaps you can find some way we can build units in Toronto. Mayor Eggleton cannot find it. The chairman of the Metro government cannot find the solution. The private sector has not been able to find the solution. I am sure this House would have some difficulty suggesting to the minister or Treasurer that we should be trying to subsidize units in the range of \$25,000 to \$30,000 to have them constructed in the Toronto area. I do not believe we would find much public acceptance or much acceptance by the members of this House.

Mr. Laughren: You are really trying, Claude.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Yes, we are trying. I compliment the civil service for the time and effort they put in, far beyond the regular seven or eight hours a day, trying to find, not only by the political system—

Mr. Laughren: For 10 units.

Mr. Bennett: The 10 units is just a side issue at the moment, because there are people living far

beyond Metropolitan Toronto who have the same difficulties. If you have some brainwave—

Mr. Mackenzie: You are the government side and you are doing nothing.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Don't talk when you are from Hamilton. It has been well looked after. If you have some brainwave that will resolve the problem, we would be delighted to hear it, but to just sit there criticizing is not going to resolve many of the problems. The Treasurer told you that last week and you still have not been able to hear or understand.

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order. The minister's tone is so provocative. I am sure this is out of order, but I have done this from time to time. I see we have some guests in the gallery. To explain for them, we are at present reviewing supplementary estimates of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: The member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) made a remark relating to unconditional grants. I am prepared to admit, as I have said to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and as I have repeated on several occasions, the whole grant formula is being reviewed at present, not only within the ministry but outside the ministry with the help of AMO. We hope we might find a more rationalized way of trying to come to grips with grant programs in Ontario.

Let me suggest clearly that the grant program has been standardized for all municipalities on a formula basis. I do not accept that other municipalities come here begging. They get their share. This year we gave them an 11.2 or 11.4 per cent increase. We made the public announcement with AMO and others participating in that announcement. At times there are municipalities, whether it be the one I represent or others, that will come in to see the minister, whether of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Transportation and Communications, Environment or whatever other ministry, not to get their share but to see if they can expand upon their share and get a greater share of the operation.

8:50 p.m.

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: As always, this minister gets up and reads off a whole raft of figures. No one knows what the hell he is talking about. The thing is that what he is talking about is not working.

Mr. Chairman: What is the point of order?

Mr. Sargent: The point of order is that no one understands what he is saying. Somebody writes that stuff for him. He reads it off and he shouts louder than anybody else in the House.

Mr. Chairman: All right. Order. Your point of order is well taken. However, the chair rules you are out of order.

Mr. Sargent: We ask him questions and he won't answer them.

Mr. Chairman: Well, try again as soon as he is finished.

Mr. Sargent: I will try in a few minutes.

Mr. Chairman: All right.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: On a point of privilege, Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to announce that CFRB is stating that in Newfoundland the Conservatives have won 47 seats and the Liberals five. I just thought I would—

Mr. Chairman: I would like to point out that the Minister without Portfolio is out of order.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I apologize, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: I might also add that it was pointed out by the clerk at the table that guests in the public gallery are not to participate in any way or manner by showing their enthusiasm. I am serious about that. You are not to participate in what takes place before the House.

Mr. Breaugh: Would I be out of order to suggest a moment's silence for the people of Newfoundland?

Mr. Chairman: I want to tell the member for Oshawa if we could get it in this House that would be a trick.

Mr. Riddell: I'll make a bet, Mr. Chairman. It takes only five Liberals to do the job that it takes 47 Tories to do.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: I say to the member opposite he has lost ground in Newfoundland. He might have gained a little in Quebec last night, but he has lost ground tonight in Newfoundland.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: If he is happy with that, that's fine.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: By his mathematics, they gained seats.

Mr. Chairman: Order. I know we are all waiting to hear from the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Let me make one comment to the member for Ottawa East (Mr. Roy). He had some rather denigrating remarks to make relating to the winterization program of

the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. I trust the member realizes that we do experience in this country, in the northern hemisphere, winter at least once a year. Once every 12 months we do experience winter.

To the member for Ottawa East, we are advertising winterizing and weatherproofing homes against cold weather, regardless of what month it happens to be, so that people can still take the advice, the guidance, the stimulation. Looking at the member, it would take him six months in advance of winter to get him to move on that particular subject. So I do not see any waste of the money being spent on the advertisement whatsoever. It is an ongoing program to stimulate people's interest in weatherproofing their homes to conserve energy, a very vital natural resource for this province in the world market today.

Mr. Roy: After the winter is over. You have got it ass backwards.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Let me tell the member that from this direction that is just about what I am looking at, so don't worry about that.

The member for Etobicoke asked a question in relation to a specific project and I will obviously have to get the information for him and report back to him.

Let me wind up on one other point, because I see a rather interesting group of people sitting directly across from me who have a friendship with a group that forms the government nationally. At least we recognize our relationship with our national party. There are occasions when they do not want to recognize their relationship to their national party.

I will not try to draw in why they do not do that. It is interesting to sit here tonight and listen to the member for Erie and others criticize what is going on in the mortgage world. I have already said that interest rates are a national problem. I said clearly to the member for Erie that it is a problem of national interest, not only in Ontario but, indeed, a problem relating to interest rates on individual mortgages which are a concern for 10 provincial governments.

It would not appear to be of national concern to the Treasurer or the Minister of Finance for Canada. He does not seem to recognize that there are some difficulties. He has allowed the situation to go on since November 12 without doing a thing to correct it. Not one thing. The member can sit there and criticize but at least I will stand on behalf of Joe Clark.

Certainly, when the Conservative Party was

in power it offered Canadian home owners the opportunity to write off mortgage interest rates against income. But interestingly enough, while they sit here criticizing their friends in Ottawa I would ask how many times they have gone to Ottawa to ask them to do something about it? It has been exactly that many; zero. In their part of the province they have three federal ministers who could have some impact, I would hope, upon some of the decisions being made by the federal Liberal Party but, obviously, they have not, and we drag on.

I want to assure the House that this ministry, this government, is concerned about the housing industry and the slump that we are facing in that particular construction area. The government has been working, and I hope that within a relatively short period of time, whether it comes before the budget or during the budget, some programs will be enunciated that, we hope, will assist in the field of housing construction and rental unit construction.

Mr. Haggerty: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I do not want the minister to mislead the House by saying that I have been critical of him. That is true, but he must remember that they are pumping millions of dollars into this government to assist geared-to-income housing. He forgets about the senior citizens units that are being built with 90 or 95 per cent funding by the government in Ottawa.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: A percentage of that cost is also funded by Ontario taxpayers, 50 per cent. If my friend looks at the federal government subsidization and concerns himself with how much of that 50 per cent comes from Ontario taxpayers, he will find that our percentage from the Ontario taxpayers' point of view is considerably higher than 50 per cent.

Mr. Chairman: Order. The member for Erie has a point of order.

Mr. Haggerty: I just wanted to say that every time a senior citizens' building is opened as a rental unit, who takes credit for it but the province. Yet, it was funded some 95 per cent by the federal government.

Mr. Chairman: The member's point of privilege is out of order.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: What my friend calls funding by the federal government is a mortgage. It has to be repaid. I do not call that funding. It is a supply of dollars that has to be repaid with interest. So I would ask the member for Erie not to get things all screwed around.

The fact is that the mortgage is going to be repaid by the tenants through the 50-50 program, federally and provincially, in the subsidization, but it is still a mortgage. It is not buckshee money coming from the federal government in any way, shape or form. I can guarantee that.

Mr. Mancini: What kind of money?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: I said "buckshee."

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I asked the minister something a while back trying to lead him to think of something intelligent. You can lead a horse to drink but you cannot make him water. We cannot get through to this minister because he has the book there. He is reading the Bible. That is all he is doing.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Eddie, that is better reading than you do.

Mr. Chairman: Order. Has the minister concluded his remarks?

Mr. Sargent: I would like to educate him a bit here.

Mr. Chairman: The chair recognizes the member for Grey-Bruce.

Mr. Sargent: The program I am talking about has no income ceiling, and I would like to have one good reason why he could not do this. It offers loans at six per cent to low income residents, nine per cent to veterans and 10 per cent to all others, and a five per cent down payment is needed. But the whole area is booming. There have been 3,000 loans made and the housing industry is booming.

9 p.m.

The program is administered by the Alaska Housing Finance Corp. estate agency, which raises money for the mortgages by selling bonds. It then uses state appropriations to subsidize the difference between the bond cost and the cost to the borrowers. In this way something meaningful is being done; there is a lot of involvement by a lot of people.

Everybody would get into the act here if a similar program were introduced, because it would help the economy and people would get a piece of the action. Why can the minister not think about something like that—something that is not done by the minister's think tank? It is an intelligent track record. Why does he not think about it?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: The Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) has already indicated he is thinking about it.

Mr. Sargent: The second question I have is why the minister should have two houses, one paid for by—

Hon. Mr. Gregory: That is out of order—right out of order.

Mr. Sargent: I want to find out why the minister can have that agreement with the province and nobody else can have it.

Mr. Chairman: Order. That is not under the supplementary estimates. Next question.

Mr. Sargent: It is housing. Why doesn't he want to answer it?

Mr. Chairman: Next question. Any further inquiries?

Votes 603 and 2206 agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: This completes the study of the supplementary estimates for the province of Ontario for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1982.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Gregory, the committee of supply reported certain resolutions.

Clerk of the House: Mr. Villeneuve from the committee of supply reports the following resolution:

That supply in the following supplementary amounts and to defray the expenses of the government ministries named be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1982.

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, municipal affairs program, \$36,640,400; Ontario mortgage program, \$2 million;

Ministry of the Attorney General, administrative services program, \$3 million;

Ministry of Colleges and Universities, college and adult education support program, \$5,525,000;

Ministry of Government Services, real property program \$3,837,100;

Ministry of Northern Affairs, northern economic development program, \$1,300,000;

Ministry of Treasury and Economics, economic policy program, \$6 million;

Ministry of Health, institutional health services program, \$88,772,300;

Ministry of the Environment, environmental control program, \$30 million;

Ministry of Natural Resources, land management program, \$1,878,200;

Ministry of Transportation and Communications, provincial road program, \$14,600,000;

Ministry of Community and Social Services, adult and children's services program, \$43,241,600.

Resolution concurred in.

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE PAPER

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, prior to the next order of business, I wish to table the answer to question 16 on the Notice Paper [see Hansard for Thursday, April 8.]

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Breaugh: Mr. Speaker, I want to pick up where I left off about eight days ago. A few events have unfolded in Oshawa which will change the nature and tone of my speech. I was quite prepared to deal with the layoff situation we had before in a reasonable and moderate way, but I have to say now that I have seen a new turn of events. I suppose we could have anticipated some of the matters; some we could not.

Let me deal first with something that may seem a little unusual for me. I want to say a few words about a deal between General Motors of Canada and the government of Iraq and what various levels of government have done about it, which is not a hell of a lot.

The first order of business: This was one of the first major export deals for an Ontario-based company, GM, to sell vehicles to Iraq. The first part of the deal went through quite neatly, and the second part of the deal was a renewal of the contract for some 12,500 vehicles.

The federal government supposedly was going to guarantee this deal. It now appears they did not. The federal government was supposedly going to send its Minister of Industry and Trade, Mr. Lumley, to Baghdad to resolve that problem. They sent him, but he did not do a thing for us.

In my view, the corporation got a bad deal from the federal government. But it got no deal from the provincial government, which has had nothing at all to say about this, even though the plant, the production facility, the workers and the jobs involved were all in Ontario.

Not a whimper have we heard from the government of Ontario. It seems this matter is not even worth their comment. It strikes me as being strange that a matter of this magnitude is something the government of Ontario has nothing to say about at all; not a word.

One of the merciful things we might do is

recommend to the federal government that Mr. Lumley stay at home. I have no objection if he visits Plum Hollow. I do not mind if he goes back to Cornwall or visits Ottawa once in a while. But this honourable gentleman has gone to Baghdad on two occasions to see about the GM deal with Iraq and has struck out. He did absolutely nothing for the Canadian auto industry there.

Then he went to Tokyo to see if he could talk to the Japanese government about coming up with some kind of agreement for imports. Again Mr. Lumley did not do a thing for Canada, for Ontario or for the auto industry. I feel it is particularly dangerous to have in that kind of responsible position a man who is so ineffective.

I also want to deal with our own Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. Walker). Last Thursday afternoon we had a debate in this House dealing with the auto industry and with the layoffs announced at General Motors and at other plants around the province.

I want to point out one technique that this government uses consistently to try to confuse and argue. On every occasion I can think of, this government has come up with its own version of who is laid off and who counts; which layoff is a real layoff and which layoff is an imaginary layoff.

That Thursday afternoon the Minister for Industry and Trade rose in the House. Among the many things he had to say, none of which was too great, was that he is quite happy the number of layoffs in Oshawa boosts the number to 5,000; then he went on to say the number was "lower than the 11,700 auto layoffs in July 1980." Somehow he was trying to convince us that 11,700 layoffs in one industry is not too bad. He kind of accepts that as now being the standard for the industry. Almost 12,000 people can be laid off and it is all right; the norm has been established.

9:10 p.m.

The irony is that the minister had his numbers a little bit wrong. He missed another 7,000 or 8,000 people because, according to the United Automobile Workers, its statistics put the Oshawa layoffs in a category that boosts the number of unemployed auto workers here in Canada, most of whom are in Ontario, to more than 20,000.

It is bad enough that a minister of the crown, supposedly in charge of industry and trade, and of his own free will, says: "We do not count those people. They have been on layoff so long they do not have any recall rights; so we wipe them off the books. They do not belong in our

statistics any more." Or perhaps he really does not know how many people are laid off in the auto industry here in Canada, and that means almost entirely people in Ontario.

I do not know what it takes to get the ministers of the crown to pay some attention to what we think is a serious ongoing problem in the auto industry. Last Thursday afternoon, I thought we had arrived at some consensus among all three parties that there was a substantive problem which this government, whether it was its responsibility or not, had to deal with.

The unfortunate thing is that since then I continue to hear the ministers say it is always somebody else's fault, always the federal government's fault. Perhaps it is. But even if one accepts that the bulk of this problem is generated by the federal government, and having said that for the better part of two to three years now, surely one must come to the conclusion that this government here in Ontario, for its own survival and for the survival of its own economic development, now has to take some steps that will resolve the problem.

You have seen the track record of the federal Liberal government. There really cannot be many surprises left for you. They do not intend to do anything. They have stated that intention quite regularly. Whether we are talking about how many Japanese cars get imported into Canada or whether we are talking about interest rates for mortgages, you now know what the response of the federal government will be.

You have seen Allan MacEachen at work. You know how sensitive that person is to the people who live in this country: almost not at all. You have seen the kind of response, for example, that the federal government gives to the imports. On Monday morning in Vancouver harbour they began to inspect the imports as they came off the ships, something they had not done before; so there will be some delay in getting those vehicles from the ships to the dealerships. That is their version of government action.

Compare that with what we see the Tories in Ontario doing. One would almost think that, although they are supposedly of a different stripe, the same level of inaction has somehow infiltrated their own minds. We look for something from them, for some response to the needs of the auto workers.

I asked the Premier (Mr. Davis) what he intended to do for people like Joe McCullough, who is an interesting example of a guy who worked for 25 years in one plant, Firestone in

Whitby. When that plant closed, Joe and his fellow workers came to Queen's Park, because at that time we had a select committee on plant shutdowns and employee adjustment. They put their case to members of all parties. The Minister of Labour was one of the members who sat on that committee. I sat in on several of their sessions, and I listened to the response from members of all parties.

There was considerable empathy for the workers. There were people who said: "I didn't really realize that is what happened to people. You spend 25 or 30 years of your life working in a plant, somebody in Akron makes a decision and down goes the plant—your job is gone."

I was there when we presented proposal after proposal of things this government could do about notice provisions, about severance pay, about retraining, about dealing with the plant, the worker and the community. I saw how many of those came to any legislative fruition—damned few. I saw how it was done and how many people were assisted by the severance pay legislation that was brought in—damned few again.

I want to know how long we have to go at this. How many personal lives and families, friends and communities have to be ruined before we see this government move? I listened to the Premier answer my question about Joe McCullough, and he gave me a bunch of malarkey about how we wanted to nationalize everything.

That afternoon I read the Toronto Star, and there in the front seat of a new car in Brampton, with a Socialist minister from France, I saw the Premier, puffing his little pipe and driving a car off an assembly line. He had no qualms about dealing with socialism in the morning. He was happy as hell to get in that car and drive off that assembly line. It did not bother him a whit then.

In the afternoon, though, when all I wanted was a simple reply to what a worker like that does—and, unfortunately, there are thousands of them in my community now—the Premier had no answer for those people. He does not even have a good response to opposition members who ask, "What kind of legislation will you bring in?"—the kind of stuff we should have seen in the throne speech, for example. In this throne speech there should have been an outline of legislation that was required.

The circumstances have changed somewhat, and I want to put them on the record, because I think they are dramatic.

General Motors in Oshawa had been dealing

with its plants as many of our car producers had been; that is, by temporary layoffs. People were getting a week's work a month or two weeks' work a month. Some of them were lucky and had the opportunity of working three weeks and then taking a week's layoff. Last week the company began making announcements that were substantially different in nature and dramatic and that will have far-reaching consequences for Oshawa and, unfortunately, for Ontario. The company began the week by announcing that there would be 750 layoffs. These would not be temporary layoffs; they would be indefinite.

It is always difficult to read into a large corporation like General Motors exactly what its motives are. There is no question, all of us know, that this is a negotiating year. In every negotiating year I have ever seen in my community the company has followed the same pattern. In the first month or so of the year it stockpiles like mad, people get to work a great deal of overtime, the yards are full and the teamsters are busy hauling cars, the car lots fill up, and huge inventories are built up. There is stockpiling of automobiles. Then, usually about this time of the year, the company announces some layoffs and begins to send rumours through the community that the car industry is in trouble again. Then about July the negotiations begin.

This year, as you all know, in the United States they are working very hard to get what are called concessions from the auto workers. The Big Three have gone back to the bargaining table with the United Automobile Workers in the United States, and concessions have been made. Of course, an attempt is being made to put that whole package of concessions into the Canadian agreement as well. One interesting thing is that no effort is being made by the Big Three auto makers to take those concessions they have wrung out of American auto workers, and are trying to get out of Canadian auto workers, and put them in effect in the European agreement.

One would think that if multinational corporations needed concessions in the United States and here in Canada, they would need them in Europe as well. So why are they not even asking? Because the prospects of them getting concessions of this kind in the European tradition is nil. The legislation is in place there, and the concept has been accepted that you do not fight economic downturns on the backs of your workers. The legislation is there, which is something we should remember.

A lot of people have talked lately about the Japanese and their techniques for producing automobiles. One of the reasons we could not take the Japanese production techniques and apply them in Canada is not on the workers' side; it is not really a cultural thing. It is on the company's side. One cannot imagine getting our auto producers to sit down and, as a first order of business, say: "There will be no layoffs. No matter what we do, no matter what kind of robotics go into our plants, no matter how computerized it gets or how dramatically the production shift changes, all our workers will have jobs. More than that, we will take on some of the responsibilities that, in Canada at least, governments take on. We will talk about providing some mortgage security for our workers. We will talk about education for the workers' children. We will talk about a range of programs sponsored by the company."

It would not be a bad idea to bring into the Canadian auto industry, if we had one, some of the aspects of production that are there in Japan, which undeniably has a system that produces a good automobile at a price that is more than competitive with the North American automobile. The big stumbling block would be the corporations, to get them in the first instance to give job security to the workers so that they are not always threatened every time somebody introduces a new robot into a production line or enters a new concept as to how the cars are made.

From the day they go to work in the plant until the day they retire, the workers in Japan feel that their jobs are secure, that their benefits are safe, that they will not be faced with what Joe McCullough and his family are faced with: after a lifetime of work in a plant, disaster—no benefits, no security plans, very low severance pay and no real prospect of getting another job in short order.

It is tough to sort out whether this announced layoff in Oshawa is for real, is part of a negotiating ploy, is a reflection of a world automobile market that is turning around, rather sadly from our perspective, or whether it really is necessary. Hot on the heels of that, which is what makes some of us a little suspicious, the company went through some other parts of the plan.

We know there has been an ongoing review of the operations in GM in Oshawa and in every other car plant in the province. Last week, they followed up this major announcement with another one, a plant called CKD, a complete

knockdown unit, one of the few General Motors places that is not an assembly line operation, where high-seniority, older people are working at what most of us would consider a normal work place, doing a normal kind of work, other than that of an automated assembly line. They say that is going too.

9:20 p.m.

You can follow the ripple effect as it goes through. There are 250 jobs lost in CKD. Some of those people will be able to stay on the assembly line. Most of them are 45 and 50 years of age. Many will have compensation problems. Many have not worked on a production line for 15 or 20 years. My anticipation of their remaining working lifetime on the assembly line is a week, maybe two; for those who are really hardy maybe three weeks. Then they are off on some kind of long-term disability compensation or something like that. It is not realistic to take people like that and put them on an assembly line where the average life expectancy is about seven years. It is unreal.

In the parts warehouse there are 90 more jobs lost. As soon as they had finished all of this, a little company called T. G. Gale Ltd., which makes the boxes into which these automobile parts are packed, said, "Well, if they move that out of here to a company called Livingstone in Tillsonburg, we have no jobs either." So there is another 70 jobs.

Early in the week we went through a period when I was almost afraid to answer the telephone, because every time I did it was somebody from GM with a new announcement of more layoffs.

On Sunday afternoon we went to the old union hall, where the brothers and sisters were gathered to have these layoffs and what they meant explained to them. They were also interested in the concessions they had read about in the newspapers.

Many of our workers, without question, are intrigued above all by the idea of job security. That is understandable in our society. In my community, where the unemployment rate now is probably more than 20 per cent, everybody is concerned about a job in the family. And so they listen to the Americans and to news broadcasts, all saying that somehow the United Automobile Workers in the United States have accepted the idea of concessions, which seems to many of them to be a reasonable idea.

We went through one of the Ford contracts in this instance to see what those US concession talks would mean in a Canadian context. We

listened to it, because the prime selling point is job security. But as we went through the contract, detail by detail, the more you read into the concessions, the more you realize that they do not offer job security. What they offer the worker is a chance to sacrifice some of the benefits negotiated over the years in return for the loss of even more jobs.

We have a clause in the Oshawa contract, as well as in other contracts, about paid personal holidays. These have been negotiated over a lengthy period of time. Many people, looking at the contract simplistically, said: "Why don't you give those up? You don't need an extra holiday here and there." That sounds like a nice, simple tradeoff, except the moment the union in Oshawa, or in Canada, gives up the paid personal holidays, we lose 800 jobs in Oshawa. There you see a worker accepting a simple premise that they give up some of their benefits in return for job security. In reality what they do is give up their benefits and they cause even more unemployment.

We went through the whole list. I walked into the hall at the beginning of the meeting and felt a great air of unease. People were nervous. People were angry. By the end of the meeting, after they had been through it step by step, they began to understand that there were lots of players here, that there were lots of things they could not resolve at a bargaining table.

There were the actions of people like Ed Lumley, the Premier (Mr. Davis) and the Prime Minister—politicians and governments doing nothing, just excusing themselves from the scene and not being players. Some of them developed concepts about the political process. They also heard facts dispel the myths of the whole concession package.

At the beginning of the meeting it was clear that they wanted their political representatives there. Mr. Broadbent came from Ottawa, and I attended. The member for Durham East (Mr. Cureatz) was invited but he sent a letter saying that, unfortunately, as Deputy Speaker of the House he could not participate. It was apparently some kind of diplomatic status that made it impossible for him to go to the union hall and listen to the problems of the workers.

I would not impute motives or anything to him, but I remember when he wanted to read a speech at Durham College for the Minister of Education, when they wanted to open up a new computer-aided design/computer-aided manufacturing centre. There was no letter there; the member was there. I remember the member was

there on several other occasions when there were things happening in the riding.

I feel rather sad not only that he found he could not be there but also that somehow he felt it was not proper for him to be there. I would have been happy to have the member for Durham East there.

I would have been pleased as punch to see the Premier there. I think it would have been interesting to see how smiling the Premier could have been in that hall; to see whether he could have looked at, not an opposition member raising a question, but 1,500 auto workers who were worried about their jobs. I would have liked to have seen whether he could have replied to them in quite the flip way that he replies to questions from opposition members in here.

Mr. Laughren: Giving smart-ass answers.

Mr. Breagh: I am not too sure he would do that. I am sure we would be pleased to arrange the invitation to get him in front of that group and to address some of their problems, but I am not so sure he would do that.

I want to read into the record a couple of other things that came across my desk.

Mr. Cureatz: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I want to remind the member for Oshawa that he would be the first person to complain if I were representing the government at a political function, and he knows it. The member also knows that I specifically said at Durham College that I was not representing the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson). And who did I ask up on the platform? The member for Oshawa. I said specifically that I was representing all members of the Legislature, and he knows it.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, I would have been extremely pleased if the member had come to the union hall and represented all the members of the Legislature there. I would have been more than happy to have invited him up to the platform.

I always read the speeches made by various ministers as they go about. When I asked the Premier what he was going to do for Joe McCullough, I was thinking of a little speech I had read by the new Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell). I want to read a very small portion of it, because in context it makes good sense. He was speaking at the opening of a new Heinz plant for tomato paste, and of course that is an important matter. He said:

"Today, I presented Heinz with a cheque for

\$3 million, a grant from Bill." I do not have any objection to the Minister of Agriculture and Food presenting Heinz with a cheque for \$3 million. I do not want \$3 million for Joe McCullough, Rudy Courville or any of the other guys who are now laid off. All I want is a fair shake. That is all I want. I want the government to listen to them in the first place; listen to their problems, react and respond to individuals and to the community.

I want to read another little cutie that came across my desk. This one is from the Treasurer of Ontario. I want to get down to the bottom part; I will read the last paragraph of his magnificent speech that afternoon.

"My experience in business and politics and with people has convinced me of one thing." I did not quite believe that—I was not sure he was convinced of one thing—so I read it a second time. "You give people opportunities if you reward them for initiatives and risk."

I kept thinking of auto workers who had gone back to work in other plants, and all the people in mines and in industrial plants across the province who had taken initiatives and risk. Sometimes the risk was not money; it was their lives. They took initiatives by getting up every day at 5:30 in the morning and going to work in a plant or a mine.

Here is the Treasurer of Ontario saying that he wants to reward people for initiative and risk, that if, as Canadians, we get behind our industries, and we are, and that if we show our confidence in their products by buying a North American car instead of an import or by vacationing in Ontario instead of Mexico, eventually Canadians will regain their optimism.

I want Canadians to regain their optimism, that is true, but I also want them to regain their livelihood. I do not think there is much chance of them regaining their optimism until they do regain that chance to have a decent job and a decent life here in Ontario which they have worked for all their lives.

I do not object to any of the ministers visiting anywhere, giving their money to friends. Sometimes I pass a little comment on whether it is appropriate, but I understand the Tories in Ontario have been in business for quite some time doing just that, giving their friends gobs of money. All I am asking for the people I deal with every day is a fair shake. I know there is a range of programs we have presented here and in committee regularly and we will do that again.

9:30 p.m.

For example, when the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Elgie) was Minister of Labour, I remember conversations in the hall when he would say: "That is really a sensible thing to do. There is only one problem, I cannot get that kind of legislation through cabinet." Why not? Is there something wrong with the auto worker or the steel worker that means he does not get the same fair shake that Heinz ketchup gets? Is there something wrong with the individual worker that he does not deserve that response from the government?

I keep hearing again and again, every day, that this government has no power in the world to act; all the world is controlled by the federal government. What a sad, pessimistic presentation to put before this Legislature every day. They will drive us all insane with deep depression. That cannot be the case. Surely this government must have some things within its jurisdiction. Surely it must be able to respond to individuals and communities.

We will put the ideas in front of you, as we did again today. We talked about community adjustment programs. Why can you not do that? Why can you not respond in a clear, sensible, rational way to what you now understand is the problem. Why do we have to get the United Auto Workers challenging the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. Walker) over how many people are really out of work? How can we disagree on that?

These people do not disappear; they are here. The statistics come out of StatsCan, the UAW and various ministries. Why does a minister appear to have lost 7,000 human beings somewhere in the paper shuffle? How can that happen?

Why are ministers even now, in the midst of what I think is an economic disaster, not reading into the record every day their legislative proposals to deal with the 1,750 people who face a layoff at GM in Oshawa and the layoff of 140 aircraft workers at de Havilland? Why are they not talking to people around this province? How about the professors who have warned of the huge layoffs in London, Ontario? Why do they not talk about the shutdown of the Westinghouse plant in Hamilton? Where is the response to that? The faculty is mum on proposed layoffs at St. Clair College. How come? Why do we not have a definitive answer for those people?

The bad times are catching up with truckers because if we do not produce cars, we do not ship cars, so the Teamsters are in trouble. Why does the government not deal with those people

who are interested, as they were again this afternoon, in protesting interest rates in public? Why is there not some action on the part of this government? Why is there not even a response?

Why does the government not talk about the Weldwood of Canada plant in Searchmont which is planning a plant shutdown as the market sags? Why are they not responding to the 63 people in Renfrew who were laid off from two Renfrew industries? Why is there not a response to something like that? Why do they not talk to those 90 people who lost their jobs in Cornwall as a curtain maker closed?

Where is the response of this government to all this need? I do not know where it is. Perhaps it is in the budget. Perhaps last Thursday afternoon we saw the government responding as best it could, sometimes a little sensitive about whether opposition members had quite followed the rules of procedure, but not very bold. Perhaps we will see all of these measures in the budget to come, but I doubt it. It certainly was not contained in this throne speech, in the actions of ministers or in legislative proposals.

Many of us on this side of the House accept the idea that there are a number of ministers over there who are new to their responsibilities, but for how many more days will we accept that as an excuse for not dealing with a problem which is not new, one which has been growing for some time in our economy?

If we look at the biggest single problem in my town, the auto industry, that is not new. It has been coming for a long time and the response of this government to the needs of the auto industry in Canada has been zip, not a thing. You can say you have responded to some requests from auto makers, but you cannot say you responded even on one occasion to the needs of auto workers, to the needs of individuals and families who are not looking to this government for excuses.

We are not looking for this government to blame the federal Liberals for their ineptitude, we are looking for a response from the government of Ontario to the people who live in this province, to the very real needs of our communities, of our families and of our individual workers. That, sad to say, was extremely lacking in this throne speech.

Mr. Hodgson: Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure for me to rise this evening to commend the government on the throne speech and our agenda for the coming year. I am also grateful for the opportunity to make some comments and recommendations on the state of affairs in

York North on behalf of its residents, whom I am very proud to represent in this Legislature.

Before I begin my remarks, however, I would like to take a moment to extend my congratulations to the new party leaders across the floor. I wish both of them luck in dealing with their new responsibilities, but not that much luck that will enable them to form a government in the future.

During my years as a member of this Legislature I have seen a great number of changes. Certainly I have seen a great number of changes in the makeup of this chamber. New faces and various different viewpoints—from across the floor particularly—have come and gone over the years. Within my own riding I have seen real change in constituency growth. In population, my riding of York North has jumped from 60,000 or so to 107,000 people at the present time, from the 15th largest constituency in Ontario to the sixth largest today.

Mr. Mackenzie: Are you going to talk to us about the layoffs?

Mr. Hodgson: No, the member had his opportunity.

I welcome this growth, which has strengthened our community and brought new ideas, new jobs and prosperity to our region of the province. York North is a mixture of ever-growing urban centres, farms, rural homesteads and small communities. While there is growth and diversity, there are inevitably more demands and more public issues to be addressed, more groups to be met with and more problems to be solved, more needs to be satisfied and more points of view to be represented. Sometimes viewpoints may conflict but all must be heard and represented in this Legislature.

For this reason, I suggest in the interests of my constituents that redistribution is necessary in my region and should be considered prior to the next election. By reducing the size of the riding not only in terms of people but also in terms of geography we will best ensure that every constituent, every issue, all concerns afford the time and attention they deserve and need.

Growth in York North has also put an excessive demand over the years on our roads and highways. I am gratified that with the resolution of the Stelco strike, steel is now available to complete the Bloomington overpass. By late August or early September of this year, Highway 404 to the Bloomington Sideroad will be opened. By 1984, the last phase of the extension is scheduled to be under construction to Davis Drive in Newmarket. This will create

very real and positive economic expansion in that area of the riding.

As many members will be aware, we have seen a great deal of industrial and residential development in the south end of York region in recent years. Highway 7 is the only major route north of Highway 401 to service this now very busy area. There is more traffic than Highway 7 can handle and we are looking at worsening congestion as time goes by.

Mr. McClellan: Don't slow down.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): Order.

Mr. Hodgson: As such, it is vitally necessary that the proposed Highway 407—

Mr. Roy: Would you like me to sit over there?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Albert, we don't want the picture spoiled.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. The member for York North has the floor.

Mr. Roy: Is this being recorded, or something?

The Acting Speaker: Order.

9:40 p.m.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I have no complaint but just for posterity and perhaps for my own personal uses I would want to be guided by your strict direction in this matter. I note that in the gallery behind me there is a very active photographer taking appropriate photographs of my friend the member for York North. I assume by your quiet approval that is in order.

The Acting Speaker: I assume it has been looked after. The point is understood. The point is that the honourable member has the floor and I would ask that there be respect.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, I have endless respect for your discharge of the authority that is vested in you as you sit in that marvellous chair. You have made a ruling on that. So there will be no confusion, I understand the orders to be quite specific and they indicate quite another direction, but I am prepared to follow—

The Acting Speaker: As long as the honourable member realizes special permission can be given and has been obtained.

Mr. Hodgson: Actually, Mr. Speaker, I do not mind them heckling me because I have heard them heckle there for many years now. There are few of them left to heckle, other than the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon).

Interjections.

Mr. Hodgson: The member for Ottawa East (Mr. Roy), is here only one day a week so I say to him, get your words in right now, as he will not be here tomorrow, Thursday or Friday. I will start again, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: Carry on, please.

Mr. Hodgson: There is more traffic than Highway 7 can handle. We are looking at worsening congestion as time goes by. As such, it is vitally necessary the proposed Highway 407, to run adjacent to Highway 7 north of Highway 401, be completed as soon as possible.

By moving swiftly to eliminate and prevent further traffic problems, we will encourage the continued economic activity and orderly residential and industrial development in that area. Providing good, easy access to and from new and existing industries will go a long way in increasing employment opportunities.

If anyone is getting tired, there are 40 more pages here so settle down.

Providing sensible, efficient, energy-saving access to Toronto is an issue of major concern to the many residents of my riding who commute to the city on a regular basis. In the throne speech—

Mr. Roy: That photograph is going to lack credibility. They won't believe you.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: We won't invite you over here because there would be no credibility.

Mr. Roy: This House has gone to the dogs.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: You should know.

The Acting Speaker: Order. The member for York North cannot continue with his speech with these interruptions. Would you please continue.

Mr. Hodgson: In the throne speech, this government recognized the problems that the withdrawal of Via Rail service would create for the residents of many communities.

There are hundreds of people, mainly from towns such as Newmarket, Aurora and Stouffville who have come to rely daily on the morning Via train to take them to work in Toronto. As these communities served by Via Rail have grown, so has the ridership on those trains, to the extent that more than 500 people now use the Barrie to Toronto train every working day. The Stouffville train is used by almost 300 riders making round trips every day.

Last July, when we first started hearing rumours from Ottawa that the Stouffville and Barrie lines would be cut, it came as a rather startling surprise. There was no consultation

with the province on the part of Via Rail or the federal Minister of Transport until our own Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow) requested a meeting with Mr. Pepin.

In my view, it was Ontario's immediate reaction of concern and, indeed, outrage which led Mr. Pepin to delay the closing of the Stouffville, Barrie and Havelock lines. The time we were granted by this delay was absolutely imperative in order that the province could study and negotiate arrangements for the commuter portions of the Via lines.

One of Ottawa's justifications for discontinuing the service was their prominent function as commuter lines. As we are all too well aware, commuter lines are not Ottawa's responsibility. The Barrie and Stouffville lines did fit the definition of commuter runs and on March 9 we all heard that Ontario was willing to continue running these two Via lines through GO Transit. GO Transit presently offers Barrie and Stouffville service, and therefore much of its current work is in planning how to best fit the current Via train service into its overall operations.

One adjustment to the system will result in the provision of train service only as far north as the Bradford-Holland Landing area. Passenger statistics show that on average only 70 people get on the train at Barrie. The cost simply does not justify starting the run there. It is more economical and flexible to provide bus service to and from Barrie for the time being. I am sure members will know it is GO Transit's policy to charge according to the distance travelled, and the same rate is paid whether a commuter is travelling by GO train or GO bus. The only difference is that the GO bus passengers pay an extra 45 cents if they want to be driven into downtown Toronto.

Because Aurora, Newmarket and Stouffville already have GO bus service, commuters from these and other nearby towns will, starting in September, have a choice of bus or train travel into Toronto. I am extremely pleased with the way in which this issue has been resolved, and that my constituents will not suffer any inconvenience. I would suggest, nevertheless, that the GO bus service be extended from Woodbridge to Yonge Street by way of Highway 7. This would provide quick and easy access to the Yonge Street corridor for those in the southern part of my riding. GO hopes to use the same schedules as Via is using in order to keep confusion at a minimum.

Mr. Riddell: Tell us about the development of Vaughan township. That's what I'm waiting for. I've got important things to do, but I want to hear about Vaughan township and the development going on there.

Mr. Hodgson: The development he is talking about in Vaughan township did not get the member for Huron-Middlesex or his former leader any place last fall. Does he remember?

All told, GO is estimating that the loss on operating these lines will be \$2.94 million for the last half of this fiscal year. This is a lot of money, but it must be seen in terms of the advantages it offers. As long as GO can continue to serve thousands of people who would otherwise drive every day, the need to expand expressways in the Toronto area at a cost of millions of dollars can be reduced, not to mention the reduction in traffic congestion, aggravation, air pollution and gasoline consumption that mass transit provides.

GO Transit has been very successful. In fact, GO's rail and bus network, which extends out about 50 miles from Toronto, is probably one of the best commuter systems in the world. GO ridership rises steadily every year.

The number of riders in GO's northern corridor has shown a consistent and healthy annual increase. The northern corridor serves a number of towns in my constituency, as well as other parts of York region. Six years ago, just over one million passengers were carried on the northern route. Last year there were over 3.5 million passengers. Next year it could easily be four million when Via passengers transfer to the GO system. What does this tell us? It tells us that the population of the York region is growing fast, that GO's popularity is on the rise, and that over three million car trips were prevented last year by GO Transit.

It also tells you, though it is not in my notes, that they have had good government in one of the best regions in the whole province, the region of York. What does it all add up to? Multiply three million times the distance from Toronto to Aurora and Newmarket, times the average price for gas in the last year, and you are looking at substantial savings.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

9:50 p.m.

Mr. Hodgson: Mr. Speaker, GO Transit has played quite a role in keeping Ontario's gasoline consumption down, as have other public transit systems. Over the long term, international oil

prices will again rise and alternative fuels will be necessary.

As all members are aware, this government has already made great strides in planning to meet our future energy needs. GO has been involved with other government agencies studying the electrification of GO trains and buses and the use of hydrogen as a fuel. An investigation into the use of hydrogen was carried out with the province's Urban Transportation Development Corp. GO also contributed technical expertise on the Ministry of Energy's task force on hydrogen energy.

The development of vehicles run by hydrogen will certainly take a great deal of money, but once completed we will have a fuel which does not pollute and can be easily produced thanks to Ontario's plentiful supply of water and electricity. GO's future at this time appears bright. Many people from the riding of York North have contributed to its growth, and I am sure they will continue to do so.

GO's takeover of the Via Rail commuter system is just one example of this government's and GO Transit's willingness to expand and provide new services where they are needed. The rail service that Via provides on the two lines in question is of importance not just to the hundreds of people who use them every working day but also to their families.

Mr. Riddell: I hope Hansard is picking this up a little better than we are. Speak into the microphone. We cannot hear you.

Mr. Hodgson: If you would keep your mouth shut you might be able to.

Mr. Riddell: You do far better without notes.

Mr. Hodgson: You have never done well with notes or without them.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order. The member for York North has the floor.

Mr. Hodgson: When the announcements of the cuts were made, not only individuals reacted but communities as well. In addition to representing my constituents' concerns to the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, I was also called upon to organize a meeting between the minister and the mayors of Aurora, King and Newmarket. I hope these representations and meetings played some part in the decision by the province to take over Via's service.

I would like to reflect briefly on the province's economy and the new economic order which Ontario must increasingly adapt to in this

country. Times are indeed very different from the day I proudly took my seat in this chamber 15 years ago. At the national level, intolerably high interest rates, inflation and unacceptable levels of unemployment are suddenly the symptoms of Canada's inability to grasp its own destiny.

Sadly, the present vacuum in federal Liberal leadership has done much to fuel this crisis of confidence. Whether it be the federal government's refusal to abandon its ruinous interest rate policy, the unjust tax measures announced in its November budget, or its bitter aggressive campaign against the provinces, it should be painfully clear to all members that we must charge ourselves with the responsibility of restoring a climate of confidence to our economy. More than anything else, this is what our government's throne speech represents

Taken as a whole, I suggest to the House the objectives our government has set out in this session are innovative in their approach and unbending in their commitment to the continued welfare of this province. Moreover, I am honoured to support a throne speech which so skilfully has identified the measures that will restore investment confidence in Ontario while at the same time alleviated some of the social discomfort being experienced in our economy.

I reiterate that no level of assistance or support from our government will stem the full tide of pessimism which has befallen our economy. In fact, it must remain the priority of this government and indeed this House to urge Ottawa to accept its pressing responsibility in establishing an economic climate which encourages productivity, investment and growth.

As an example of my concern, I note the federal government's policy on assistance to home owners renewing their mortgages. Many members may be aware that the budget announced in November promised limited grants to 12,500 households and restricted loan guarantees to some 37,500 others.

I understand the federal housing minister, Mr. Cosgrove, recently announced an extra 15,000 households will benefit from interest-free loans for rental construction. Although I am sure home owners across the country welcome assistance of any kind, I should point out there are 370,000 households about to renew their mortgages this year in Ontario alone.

Considering that mortgage rates have almost doubled in the last five years and considering that just 18 per cent of Ontario's households

who are renewing mortgages would exhaust all of Ottawa's programs, why can the federal government not see the potential threat which high interest rates pose to our society? How long does the House think it is going to take before Ottawa realizes the fundamental, stubbornly persistent problem of this country is interest rates? No amount of good-intentioned half-measures to households, farmers or business is going to fool anyone into thinking otherwise.

The throne speech our government has introduced is an affirmation of our commitment to manage the economy of this province. In spite of Ottawa's failure to provide similar leadership nationally, I will continue to hope that Canada's economic recovery is imminent. I know our government will work tirelessly toward that goal.

I would like to take a few moments to discuss a topic of cultural and historical importance to all Ontarians. My riding is the site of one of the foremost Canadian collections of art in this country. The McMichael Canadian Collection is a monument to the dedication and generosity of Robert and Signe McMichael. They have donated their paintings, their land, their home and themselves to furthering the understanding and appreciation of the Group of Seven, their contemporaries and native Canadian artists.

The government of Ontario and private collectors have demonstrated their generosity and support since the mid-1960s. The collection has grown in size and quality since that time. The unique setting and structure of the gallery attracts the second greatest number of visitors annually of all art galleries in Canada. The people in the Kleinburg area have given the McMichaels and the gallery their support and devotion over the years.

I have asked the Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Mr. McCaffrey) to appoint a resident of Kleinburg to the board of trustees of the McMichael Gallery so that the community of Kleinburg can be represented and can have information at all times.

I would like to address a situation which has deeply concerned me and many of my constituents over the past several months. I am referring to the proposed expansion of the York sanitation landfill site number 4 of the town of Whitchurch-Stouffville. We are all acutely aware this has been a very emotional issue. Certainly those directly affected in Whitchurch-Stouffville have suffered through an extended period of conflicting viewpoints, misinformation and misunderstanding with regard to their water supply.

We must all realize and make use of the knowledge that we have one overriding, common goal. That is to ensure, beyond a glimmer of doubt, that the water supply in Whitchurch-Stouffville is absolutely safe for today and for every day in the future. It is my hope the citizens of Whitchurch-Stouffville and this government can work together and co-operate in their mutual interest to solve this problem as soon as possible.

I feel it is vitally important that the viewpoints of those involved be clearly and completely expressed on the record. For this reason I will now read verbatim two letters which I received.

10 p.m.

Mr. Wildman: If the water is okay, what is the problem, Bill?

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Hodgson: The first is from Eldred King, Mayor of the town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, and second from Mrs. Frances Sainsbury, a Whitchurch-Stouffville resident. Mrs. Sainsbury is sitting here in the gallery. She was interested enough to come down here tonight and hear what we have to say.

Following this, I will outline the Ministry of the Environment's activities and submit my own recommendations to the Legislature. I quote:

"Dear Mr. Hodgson:

The town of Whitchurch-Stouffville has been surrounded by an unfortunate and to some degree a crisis of unnecessary turmoil for almost one year. Some of this distress has been founded by misinterpretation of information and the anxiety of the media to relate the suspected to public attention."

"The Minister of the Environment, the Honourable Keith Norton, put to rest many of these inconsistencies one week ago"—which is three weeks ago, now. "The Corporation of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, as I have stated on several occasions to Mr. Norton, accepts his ministry's monitoring program which provides for the safety of the private water supply adjacent to the landfill operation. The only doubt we cast is the timing and extent of that monitoring program and the application of that monitoring program as to appropriate location.

"Let me, for a moment, ask you to put yourself as an observer and as a resident of our town. In June of 1981, you would have attended the hearing for an expansion of that landfill operation before the Environmental Assessment Board. You would have had the opportunity to listen to debate by the applicant and the

opponent, of which one was the town of Whitchurch-Stouffville. Throughout that extended debate, which to a large extent dealt with the present operation, many inconsistencies were brought to light. For example, the fluctuation of the results of the monitoring program which our consultant contended were in fact increasing trends of impactation. The Ministry of the Environment staff did give evidence of impactation on a well immediately adjacent to the site. It is just simple facts such as the two I have noted plus the fact the applicant on several occasions did indicate certain data, which would have added more conclusive evidence, was not available.

"One only has to add the foregoing to the fact the landfill operation is situated on one of the most complex geographical areas of this province, that is the Oak Ridges moraine. There is a mixture of soils, a ground water divide, perched water tables for which there is very inconclusive documentation and a deep water aquifer which supplies the community of Stouffville. The extent of this deep aquifer and its complexity such as rate of flow, its depth and direction of flow are also subject to inconclusive documentation.

"The disposal of waste is the responsibility of everyone. All generate some and in abundant quantities because of the high standard of living we enjoy in this province. I accept the fact this site is one of legal non-conforming status having been in operation before this province ever established a ministry to regulate such operations. I do not believe such circumstances should allow it to escape the same safety measures that would and have been imposed on new approved operations and I refer to the recently approved Maple site.

"It has been recognized in the approval of that site and in the guidelines of the Ontario Waste Management Corp. attenuation of leachate is no longer adequate protection of the environment and definitely does not offer positive protection to the residents of this province.

"The director of approvals has recently amended the conditions of the certificate of approval which apply to the landfill operation in the town of Whitchurch-Stouffville as he has recognized in his words, and I quote, 'The monitoring results do not conclusively define the impact.' We are most grateful and relieved by the director's action.

"Mr. Hodgson, I ask why do the amended conditions still insist we only ask for the guarantee to implement a containment pro-

gram? Why do we wager on the safety of the environment? Why do we continue to allow the possibility of a monitoring program which may prove inconclusive?"

"Contain the site now, to the best of our ability and scientific knowledge. Remove all doubt which has reigned in our town for a whole year. Old established landfill sites surely are worthy of the same degree of safety measures as are new ones.

"I have not attempted to burden you with a lengthy scientific data-filled debate. I have only related certain glaring facts which face our community every day. Leave no doubt. Replace the troubled wells and contain the site now to protect the private and municipal supplies. You have proven them safe. Keep it that way.

"I thank you for sharing my thoughts and trust we can look to you for your continued support.

"I am, yours truly, Eldred King, Mayor."

Now from Mrs. Frances Sainsbury:

"March 15, 1982.

"Dear Mr. Hodgson: I have prepared a brief on behalf of the residents of Whitchurch-Stouffville regarding the landfill site in our town.

"I respectfully request that you present it on our behalf before the Ontario Legislature.

"This brief gives a short history of landfill site number 4 in our town. I learned these facts by personally attending the Environmental Assessment Board hearings for 44 days in 1974-75 and again for 38 days in 1981. I entered the hearings as a participant and filed all the necessary documents.

"It is our urgent plea that this landfill site not be allowed to expand in our town, over our main town aquifer. We rely on groundwater in Whitchurch-Stouffville. Being basically a rural area it would be almost impossible and not economically feasible to bring chlorinated municipal water to such a rural area. The potential exists because of the location of the landfill to pollute the ground water regime over a critical recharge area on the Oak Ridges moraine. Chemicals in water are an insidious enemy, very hard to detect.

"Our future health and welfare depends on how well you are able to convince the other members of our dilemma.

"Thank you for giving us this opportunity to have this brief presented to you.

"Respectfully submitted by Mrs. Frances Sainsbury, citizen of Whitchurch-Stouffville."

Here is the brief.

Mr. Wildman: Are you going to read the whole brief?

Mr. Hodgson: Certainly. I do not know whether the members opposite realize how important it is, not only to Whitchurch-Stouffville but the whole province, how this dump site is handled.

The brief reads as follows:

"March 15, 1982.

"Brief regarding the request of the citizens of Whitchurch-Stouffville to stop expansion of landfill site number 4 in our town, as of April 30, 1982.

"Whitchurch-Stouffville has a wonderful small town atmosphere. In-town has a blend of magnificent older homes to the most modern in housing. There are many small shops, good service and happy smiles. The people are loyal to the in-town merchants. We have a population of 13,500 people.

"A predominantly rural setting, showing pride of ownership is the balance of the 51,000 acres. The people are hard-working, versatile, fun-loving, giving, caring people.

"We have the best of both worlds. Close proximity to culture, industry and the hustle-bustle of the city. We truly value our unique way of life.

"When a person's way of life is threatened, people react in different ways. The people have united in a common protest. Close the dump! Because a site exists does not make it safe.

"For 20 years, site number 4 has helped to solve the garbage problems for the province of Ontario. We have not said, 'Not in our backyard.' We only say, 'Not over our drinking water supply!' The solution to pollution can no longer be dilution, due to the nature of chemicals.

10:10 p.m.

"The 185-acre landfill site is basically kame moraine in nature. It is over the main aquifer for the town water supply. The aquifer is 120 feet down. The landfill is at the divide for two watersheds, Lake Ontario and Lake Simcoe. It is on the edge of a marsh at the head waters of the East Holland River. There are 35 homes in close proximity to the site. These use ground water wells of varying depths. Fifteen of these homes and the onsite wells are monitored on a quarterly basis. That is four days' protection a year. Knowing the nature of ground water in a critical recharge area, what is in the water the other 361 days? No one knows for sure.

"Millions of gallons of liquid industrial waste went into six lagoons on this site until 1969.

Lagoon 6 was an open sieve with a direct hydraulic connection to the lower aquifer. George Kerr closed the site to liquid waste at that time. Since 1970 it has been designated a nonhazardous waste site. The site had no engineering until 1974. Eleven hundred tons a day go into that site. The whole town of Stouffville generates only 6,500 tons of garbage a year. That goes into this site in only six days. To place garbage dumps with only an 'attenuation mechanism' design over a usable aquifer is ludicrous. Because of the chemical technology we now have, we know that many chemicals go unimpeded through clay. It is an impossibility to keep toxics out of these sites. There is no site inspector at Stouffville. No waste is safe.

"Due to lack of funds the residents could not afford sophisticated testing. However, testing in concentric circles from the landfill established background for chlorides. The first natural tracer from a landfill is chloride. The chloride counts are higher as we approach the landfill. Several wells are closed due to high chlorides. Several have bacteria problems, others have nitrates, some show a total organic halide (tox) reading being contamination and needing further sophisticated testing.

"Approximately 200 tests of 75 wells were done, four wells are closed by the medical officer of health. The ministry has done 25,000 tests on the same 15 wells over and over. Basics like hardness, COD, BOD, alkalinity, conductivity, even if over the desirable parameter, these will not kill you. More sophisticated testing was started in June 1981 and fingerprinting of chemicals is being done onsite for the first time in 20 years.

"Lagoon 5 has PCBs—3,294 parts per million, one million beyond parameter. An abatement program has been implemented to see if they are migrating. The PCBs are 48 feet above the aquifer in lagoon 5.

"Section 115 of the Public Health Act has prevented the trees from being sold until the sap and wood can be checked for harmful toxics which may appear upon burning.

"The landfill operators plan to discharge the surface waters untreated with minute quantities of toxics—PCB, HCB, lindane, etc.—into the marsh by way of a deep trench. The marsh is the beginning of the Vandorf Creek. Along the Vandorf Creek there are a great many illnesses. There is a health map prepared in a one and a half mile radius, showing out of approximately 220 households, 117 sick people, 45 with cancer. Many of these are in the direct flow paths of the

water. The one common denominator they all share is the ground water.

"The Ministry of Health has set aside \$1.2 million for a study. This will take two years to complete. Perhaps the study will show a serious problem connected to the water system and the landfill. If so, a serious injustice will have been done to the people of Stouffville. We will have compounded the problem by another two years and 2.5 million more tons of garbage over our water supply.

"If the dump is allowed to expand into area 5, a wooded area where there is no till, where they will place a clay liner, compacted 10^{-7} and hope it will attenuate the leachate, if it fails, the harmful toxics will reach the aquifer. This will have serious side effects.

"This province must switch to secure landfills. We need containment sites now. This old, outdated technology must cease.

"Chlorides are the wrong parameter for these dumps. Monitoring wells all different depths, four days a year is no protection at all. Even when you do find a high count of some known toxic off the dump site, it is considered an anomaly . . . This is not so! For that well, for that day it was definitely in the water. How many other toxics are being missed?

"The landfill has hydrochloric acid, sulphuric acid, oil wastes, PCBs, HCBs, lindane, BHC, endrin, dieldrin, heptachlor epoxide, and still they call it a nonhazardous waste site. Because you change the nature of the waste, it does not remove the hazardous substances now existing.

"The health map shows 117 human monitors; explain these to us. They tell a far different story than retesting the same 15 wells over and over. Based on a flow rate of 1,000 feet per year established by Mr. Rovers, the engineer for York Sanitation Co. Ltd. [at the hearings], the liquid waste would be 2.5 miles out in the flow system over the last 10 years. There is no monitoring being done this way by the ministry. The aquifer flow is westerly and southwesterly. The perch water flow is to the northwest. All these directions show a high incidence of illness (pancreas, thyroid, diabetes) fairly close to the landfill.

"The landfill company owns a site in East Gwillimbury, Aurora, Maple. None is over a town's aquifer. There will be no lost revenue for the company. To divert 37 to 50 trucks per day is not that difficult. When the site is full, you will have to divert it then; why not sooner? Why is the burden of proof of pollution always on the resident? Why not on the company to prove its

operation is safe? Why has the Ministry of the Environment spent \$250,000 on testing wells? Still they cannot tell us what Keith Hutchinson's well is impacted with that would give a highly active, positive Ames reading last October.

"This site is zoned RU (rural) nonconforming use. For 54 acres, the government must not continue to allow an operation that may destroy the ground water regime on the Oak Ridges moraine.

10:20 p.m.

"The people of Stouffville want the site closed, capped and purged. The fact that Mr. Giffen of central region, Ministry of the Environment, states at the Environmental Assessment Board hearings that the Hutchinson and Bolton wells are impacted by the landfill is a good indicator of the future destruction of all wells. To catch something in the indicator wells saves a catastrophe. Why wait for pollution? We in Stouffville do not want bottled water. We want our good artesian water supply. We want peace of mind. We want our real estate to maintain its value. We want positive things said about Stouffville. We want the Ministry of the Environment to gain its credibility back. We are a household word from coast to coast. Millions are waiting to see how this province deals with our small town.

"We are most grateful to the Honourable William Hodgson, our MPP for York North, for bringing our plea to the Legislature of Ontario. We are counting on him to educate you to our very real problems in Whitchurch-Stouffville. The future of our water, our health, our real estate values, our whole way of life rests with the Honourable Keith Norton, Minister of the Environment. Garbage cannot be more important than people. Decide what is in the best public interest! Then decide, 'What public?' Who will be most affected by this final decision? The future health and wellbeing of the people of Whitchurch-Stouffville is in Mr. Norton's hands. Should you err in your decision, 'Sorry' is not good enough!

"Respectfully submitted and signed by Mrs. Frances Sainsbury."

I would now like to outline briefly, with the patience of the House, the ministry's activities to date. First, York Sanitation is prohibited from disposing of any industrial or hazardous wastes at landfill site number 4. Monitoring by the ministry's special investigation unit has not revealed any evidence whatsoever of illegal dumping by midnight haulers.

In terms of routine inspection, the operator conducts detailed regular monitoring to ensure the purity of the ground water, and the ministry inspects the site biweekly in addition to monitoring local wells.

The ministry has conducted some 25,000 analyses on close to 2,000 water samples from the wells on the site, private wells and community water supplies. In response to the residents' health concerns, these tests have been significantly increased in range as well as sophistication. Some \$250,000 has been spent since last summer in addition to the normal expenditure that was carried on in the years before that.

Early this year, a report by Advanced Environmental Systems of New York reported high arsenic levels in three private wells. In early March of this year, samples from all three wells were analysed by both the Ministry of the Environment laboratory and the Ontario Research Foundation laboratory. Arsenic was not detectable by either lab in any of the three wells. It has since been discovered that a crucial correction factor in the AES analysis was not used, making their original test inaccurate.

In another instance, laboratories have disclaimed any responsibility for the findings of a report issued by the citizens' committee which showed harmful levels of phenol in one well.

Later in 1981, Advanced Environmental Systems released test results on 45 wells on behalf of the citizens' group. At that time, a high level of organic halides was reported. Since then, however, the lab has rechecked its results, which show all wells tested fall within the normal range of good drinking water quality.

In short, the ministry has found no evidence that the landfill site has affected the safety of drinking water in any offsite well. Municipal water supplies are of a consistently good drinking water quality.

The initial conclusions of tests commissioned by the citizens' committee have not stood up to closer scrutiny and corroborative testing. Nevertheless, the Ministry of the Environment's monitoring program is continuing to ensure that if any migration from the landfill site does occur, effective action will be taken immediately. It is hoped that ongoing monitoring will afford the community a sense of security in the knowledge of the quality of their drinking water and the continuing assurance that their public and private water supplies are safe.

In the interest of all concerned, I would now like to make the following recommendations to this Legislature.

1. Let me state that I am opposed to any expansion of the York Sanitation number 4 landfill site in the town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

2. I am opposed to any expansion, if considered by the ministry, until the Ministry of Health's \$1.2-million survey in Whitchurch-Stouffville is completed.

Mr. Wildman: Sorry; what was that?

Mr. Hodgson: Do you want me to read it again?

3. I recommend that a full-time inspector, employed by the Ministry of the Environment and recommended by Whitchurch-Stouffville town council, be on the landfill site during operating hours to monitor all waste deposited.

4. I urge the Ministry of the Environment to act immediately in setting up a contingency plan which will ensure that in the event any leachate or contaminant which could endanger the health and welfare of the community is detected, adequate containment procedures will be put into effect immediately.

5. The aforementioned points are for the

Ministry of the Environment's immediate consideration. If any of my recommendations are not accepted it is my opinion, in support of my constituents, that this dump site be closed as quickly as possible.

It is my belief that action taken on my recommendations will go a long way to alleviating the very real fears which have been expressed to me by so many of my constituents in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Taking these few positive and vitally important steps will do more than restore the peace of mind and wellbeing to those most directly affected. The lives of so many people in the town of Whitchurch-Stouffville are directly affected by this problem that they are extremely and rightfully concerned. It is imperative that positive and concrete action be taken immediately.

On motion by Mr. Sargent, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 10:28 p.m.

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Ontario

No. 20

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)



Second Session, Thirty-Second Parliament
Thursday, April 8, 1982

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Thursday, April 8, 1982

The House met at 2:03 p.m.

Prayers.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Martel: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: On Monday last, the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay), as a result of questions I raised, made a statement. In the statement regarding Rothsay Concentrates Co. Ltd., he said:

"In his remarks the other day the member referred to 72 orders being issued against the company. Last Friday, April 2, the ministry conducted a follow-up inspection, which was actually a second and third follow-up inspection. I understand that all but one order issued January 26, 1982, have been complied with. The one outstanding order will be complied with by April 14."

I have a copy of the inspection report made by the inspector, Mr. Addley, who by the way was the gentleman who refused to go in and do the original inspection. In that report it notes that only 19 out of the 72 items were looked at. When Mr. Wierts of the health and safety committee of the union requested that they look at the other 53 items the union had complained about and the union had written the ministry about, because the company maintained they made those repairs and we question whether they did, the health and safety committee was not allowed to look into the other 53 items but only the 19 which the company said were still outstanding.

The complaints have been written out and were sent to the assistant deputy minister, Dr. Ann Robinson, on March 23, but there still has been no response that the 53 situations have been rectified. We were told yesterday, when the union brought this matter to the health and safety committee, that the company simply told the union to deal directly with the ministry.

We have a statement from the minister which purports to see all these inspections done. We now know that some of the violations, such as those regarding eyewashers, and some of the various complaints with respect to lighting and so on have still not been rectified.

In preparing to take my seat, having made this

point, I can tell the minister that yet another violation has occurred and that there has been another accident. Subsection 26(1) of the act states the company must advise his director and the health and safety committee within four days, but 16 days went by and the company did not want to make that report. I think the minister must look into this situation carefully.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, is it permissible for me to ask the honourable member the date of that report?

Mr. Martel: It was signed April 2.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Prior to April 2, I had asked for another follow-up inspection to be reported. I asked for that personally and for the information to be reported to me. At this time I can only say the information given to me indicated that all but one of the orders had been complied with and that the one outstanding order would be complied with by April 14. Obviously, in the light of what the honourable member has brought forward today, I will have to investigate that further and I will do so.

ESTIMATES

Hon. Mr. McCague: Mr. Speaker, I have a message from the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor signed by his own hand.

Mr. Speaker: John B. Aird, the Lieutenant Governor, transmits estimates of certain sums required for the services of the province for the year ending March 31, 1983, and recommends them to the Legislative Assembly, Toronto, April 8, 1982.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

EDUCATION AMENDMENT BILL

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, later today I shall be introducing a bill to be called the Education Amendment Act, 1982. This bill is essentially the same as that which was introduced last fall. There are, however, some important additions or changes to the original bill.

One important subject is the matter of trustee remuneration. As a result of a recent study on the role of the trustee, it is proposed that trustee remuneration be determined locally, with the outgoing school board determining the amount

of remuneration for members or trustees of the incoming board. This legislation would become effective commencing with the school boards elected in 1982.

An important component of this bill, which was also in the bill introduced in the last session, is the provision respecting visa students. It is proposed that school boards be required to charge gross fees when admitting pupils who are in Canada as visitors or on student visas. These fees would not apply to pupils participating in certain education exchange programs or pupils enrolled prior to July 1, 1982.

Certain amendments are in keeping with policy changes implemented at the federal level in the last few years. At present, school boards are authorized to enter into agreement only with the crown in right of Canada for the education of Indian pupils. Amendments included in this act will permit boards to enter into agreements directly with Indian bands.

In addition, there are proposals of an administrative nature in the Education Amendment Act. Included is a new provision which will enable boards that provide basic literacy and numeracy programs for adults to do so not only by providing such programs directly but also through agreements with colleges of applied arts and technology. In addition, several provisions pertaining to the elected members of language advisory committees are clarified.

There are some changes to the minister's powers to make regulations. Provision is made for the minister to delegate powers and duties.

Finally, the bill contains several amendments to provide for the term of office of school board members and trustees to be for the same period of time as that of municipal councils.

I believe this will be an important bill, and I believe all members of the Legislature should support it.

2:10 p.m.

ORAL QUESTIONS

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Treasurer, who is no doubt aware of the alarming unemployment statistics that came out for March. He is no doubt aware that 25,000 more citizens of Ontario are out of work than there were last month, bringing the total now to 398,000 unemployed in the province, 183,000 of those being young people between the ages of 15 and 24, and the rate now being 17.3 per cent.

When is he going to put a halt to this crisis? When is he going to act?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I am concerned about those figures, Mr. Speaker. There are, I am told, 1,000

more employed people in the work force at the end of this month than there were a month ago. It is a very small change, but at least it is positive. I firmly believe that the relatively large job attrition that has occurred over the past four months has bottomed out.

Like the Leader of the Opposition, I have been awaiting clarification of the November budget. I understand my colleague Mr. MacEachen is now in the process of having a series of consultative processes or meetings across Canada. I am told he is about to make changes in that budget. I have been very anxious to find out whether he really is, because I would like to see my budget complementary to his, rather than in isolation.

Mr. Peterson: That is a very feeble response. The reality is that, with seasonal adjustment, there are 8,000 fewer people employed this month, and in actual terms the number of unemployed is up 25,000 this month.

I want to remind the minister of what he said to this House on March 12, 1982. He said, "It is my opinion that we are at the very bottom at the moment and that, from here on, the total growth will be quite commendable across the year."

The Treasurer is losing his credibility. Why does he not do something now at least to try to regain some of the credibility he is losing with irresponsible statements like that and his failure to act?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I just pointed out that since that point there has been a slight increase in the actual number of employed. I hope I was right; I wish I knew I was right.

The fact remains that I am well along in my budget process. I hope to be announcing a vote for the budget some time early next week so that the members will know when it will come. Then I will be doing what I can.

But I have to stress again that since so many of the ways and means motions tabled by the federal government—I think there are 163 of them in total—are in limbo with all kinds of comments about actions that were in the budget not going forward, it is making it somewhat difficult for me and, I suspect, for other provincial treasurers, like my colleague in Quebec, to know—

Mr. Peterson: A lot of those budgets are in already. Why don't you bring in one? They've all got ideas and programs. Where are yours?

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, the Treasurer is happily telling us that there are more people employed in Ontario than previously. He should tell that to the people at Great Lakes Paper in Thunder Bay, 1,150 of whom are receiving

layoff notices for a three-week period coming up in a few days.

Is the minister not aware that he has the responsibility in this province to take action to create jobs? Why does he not bring in his budget as early as possible? Waiting for the federal government is a forlorn hope. What happened to the statement he made on the very first working day of this session, March 11? He said then, "I will be ready quite quickly with my budget, because most of the work is done." Let us get on with the job. Let us create jobs here in Ontario.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Is that a question?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I am not sure that was a question, Mr. Speaker. It was a statement from a member who comes back very well tanned from some foreign shores.

Mr. Foulds: At least it wasn't bought with government money or a ministerial trip abroad.

Mr. Speaker: I think he asked whether the minister was aware.

Hon. F. S. Miller: It reminds me, yesterday we were asked to think up mottoes for the member's party.

Mr. Foulds: Just answer the question. Never mind the cheap shots.

Hon. F. S. Miller: You're looking up at the press gallery to see whether they heard your new tone of anger—something new in your party. For the last month you have been sitting there tranquilly, sunning in Antigua, enjoying yourself, worrying about the unemployed in Canada—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Peterson: He is so cute. The Treasurer has failed to mention that at this time there are 68,000 more people unemployed than there were a year ago and some 32,000 fewer jobs than were available a year ago.

A number of other provinces have taken specific action to create jobs. Is the Treasurer's only strategy to blame Mr. MacEachen or the federal government? Why does he not take his leadership from some of the other provinces that are doing things to create jobs and protect people at this time of crisis?

Hon. F. S. Miller: The Leader of the Opposition knows quite well that my budget not only will be a balancing of the books but also will take steps within whatever fiscal room I have this year to help generate jobs.

I am being particularly careful. I am assessing what is perhaps the most difficult budget for me to bring forward, at least in the four I have tried to bring forward. It is not because of political

risks, because we are a long way from an election. It is an extremely difficult time to assess what will work in Ontario and not run counter to that which is happening elsewhere. Budgets in Canada, the United States or Ontario work better when thrusts are at least somewhat related.

Mr. Peterson: Let me tell the Treasurer that if he does not have any fiscal room, it is entirely of his own creation because of some of the ridiculous expenditures he makes. That is why he has no fiscal room. He does not spend money in the places it should be spent.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Treasurer about the youth employment program. He is no doubt aware that a couple of weeks ago the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett) brought down a program announcing that \$23.4 million would be spent on the Ontario youth employment program to create 41,000 summer jobs. What he does not mention is that a year ago the program was at the \$30-million level and created 56,000 jobs. Why is the Treasurer cutting \$6.6 million and 15,000 jobs from this program when those jobs are so desperately needed today?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition touched upon some of the statistics. There is no question that the highest unemployment rate is in the 15-to-24 age range. I believe he read some of the figures into the record today.

It is also interesting to note the time of year when the highest unemployment exists for that category; it exists not in the summertime but in spring, fall and winter. There are changes in the patterns of employment. As the Ontario youth employment program was designed, it really assisted students in the work force.

The great unemployment problem now is the youths who are more or less permanently in the work force. The minister responsible for the youth employment package has been looking at those problems. In the process, the allocation for OYEP was reduced. But OYEP remains much more open-ended than most programs, because we have always accepted a much higher number of job applications than the original budget allocation would provide for, simply because there is a great deal of attrition.

The honourable member might ask the ministers responsible whether they expect the same kind of overrun this year that they had last year.

Mr. Peterson: It is the Treasurer who makes the budgetary allocations; and in addition to those cutbacks of 15,000 jobs or so, he has cut

1,200 jobs out of the Experience '82 program. How can he sit here and try to justify that?

He knows that roughly a million young people, including the students as well as other people in the work force, will be looking for work this summer, and from that allocation he has cut 16,200 jobs. How can he possibly consider this to be a responsible position in these circumstances?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I think the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) has the responsibility for the envelope as such. The member will find that the overall envelope is greater in total dollars than it was last year, as my recollection goes. What they are trying to do is adjust to the young people in the work force through programs such as the Ontario career action program and others that provide other than summer employment.

The point I was trying to make is that the money put in OYEP as the allocation, unlike many government spending programs, is not necessarily the final amount spent. It depends entirely upon the demand each year for that program. The demand dictates the spending, rather than a predetermined, fixed budgetary amount.

2:20 p.m.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, are we to understand that the Treasurer is committing the government to a major job creation program that will deal with the changes he identifies in the unemployment problem; that is, in the spring and fall? Is he committing his government to a major effort to provide jobs in those areas, or is he not?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, when the honourable member hears any program, I am sure he will say it is not major enough. I am sure he will find that we are attempting to address what are structural changes, or whatever one wishes to call them, in the profiles of unemployed younger people, and we are trying to rectify those problems.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, it seems that the Treasurer is underemployed, if not unemployed, because he has not come up with anything so far. Recently, the Quebec government announced \$100 million in job creation incentives. Given their budgetary problems, they see that as their top priority. Where is this government in this ball game? What is it going to do in a concrete way to provide jobs in Ontario, either through the private sector with incentives or within the public sector?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, when we were going through my estimates we talked about the one program the opposition always pooh-poohs, the Board of Industrial Leadership and Devel-

opment program. There are a lot of questions about the numbers of jobs created. The numbers of jobs created are being quantified more and more as time goes on, and one will find that they are considerable.

Mr. Peterson: What are they?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I am sure you would have to ask.

Mr. Peterson: How do you know what they are?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Because we are able to sit back. My colleague the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope) recently concluded what I think is a good agreement with the feds. The member talks about fed-bashing all the time. I believe it is much better for the federal government to put up some money from unemployment insurance, and for us to put up some new money and get people back to work who otherwise sit at home and draw perhaps 50, 60 or 70 per cent of the money they earned at work.

I think about \$10 million went into forest improvement programs through the minister in the last month. I am told he is negotiating with other federal ministers, trying to improve upon that approach. We are all encouraging our ministries to look for ways of working with the federal government to provide at least short-term jobs at this time of high unemployment.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. In view of his self-congratulatory speech on Saturday on what a wonderful job the government was doing about affirmative action, I wonder whether he was aware of an internal government report prepared by the Civil Service Commission, entitled, Summary of Staff Development in the Ontario Public Service, 1979-80 and 1980-81, which directly contradicts his exaggerated claims. Perhaps that speech stimulated someone to send us that document in a brown paper envelope.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: No, Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of that document.

Mr. Foulds: Will the minister inform himself of this document and become aware that the report indicates that the amount spent per person on staff development training in the civil service is almost twice per male what it is for female employees; that males not only are allocated 73 per cent of the total money but also get 68 per cent of the total days off and almost 70 per cent of all managerial, technical, and professional training?

Does the minister not think that is totally inadequate, in terms of what he claims to be a

good affirmative action program, when female employees are at least 41 per cent of the civil service?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I will be delighted to read that report. I assure the honourable member that I will do it immediately and with considerable interest.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, while the minister is ascertaining the contents of this report, will he also find out whether it was produced as a result of statistics that were illustrated by this party during consideration of his estimates in the last session? He is quite aware that for every dollar spent on training for a woman within the ministry there are two dollars spent for every man.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I will look into that too.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, given the fact that this report exists and the facts mentioned by my deputy leader, what are the minister's plans for bringing in effective affirmative action? When is he going to make some changes, and what is he planning to do?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I would like to have the opportunity to read that report before I respond.

Mr. Foulds: I ask the minister to have his speech writers made aware of those reports.

SEVERANCE PAY

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I have another question for the Minister of Labour, and it has to do with the apparent subversion of the severance pay legislation of the province.

Is the minister aware of the situation at Great Lakes Forgings and GL Processing in Windsor whereby the workers are losing at least \$80,000 in vacation pay and at least \$100,000 in lost wages?

At a meeting of the union and the company on February 12 a lawyer for the company, a Mr. Jeffrey Slopen, said: "We lock you out because if we laid you off we would have an obligation by law. We don't have any obligation with a lockout."

Has the senior mediator who was present at that meeting, Mr. Romain Verheyen, reported this information to the minister, and what steps will he take to remedy the situation?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I have been made aware of the circumstances by my staff, and we are investigating the matter further at this time.

Mr. Foulds: How long are this government and this ministry going to allow the loopholes to continue in the severance pay legislation we

passed in this House? Through these loopholes, companies like Great Lakes Forgings can subvert the legislation so that fewer than five per cent of the workers who lost their jobs in this province last year received severance pay.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I hope to be able to introduce some measures before this session is over to address some of the concerns the honourable member is raising.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, while the minister is reviewing the severance pay legislation and finding how few people are eligible to receive severance pay, as the deputy leader of the New Democratic Party points out, will he once again look into the level of employment needed to qualify for severance pay?

Specifically, will he respond to a situation at Crown Electrical Manufacturing Ltd. in Brantford, which will be closing in mid-May, throwing 26 workers on the streets? Two of those workers have more than 40 years of experience but they will not qualify for severance pay because there are not enough workers at the plant.

Will the minister review the minimum number of 50 now needed, and will he bring in amendments to reduce this number so that workers at small plants have the same rights as workers in larger plants when those plants close?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I readily agree that the problem is no less severe for an employee with a company of fewer than 50 employees than it is for an employee with a company of more than 50 employees. It is a very serious, wrenching problem. However, I understand the figure of 50 came out of the report of the plant closures committee and was the figure that was recommended at that time by the committee.

2:30 p.m.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Labour if he is aware that on June 30, 1981, the Ontario Supreme Court rendered a decision that found the Canadian National Railway liable for payment of \$633,000 to Great Lakes Forgings. Would the minister investigate whether this money is still available and, if so, see that vacation and severance pay is paid to those workers who would have received it if this company had not attempted to subvert the legislation?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, that is a very reasonable request and I will follow it up.

FOOD INDUSTRY PRACTICES

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. I am sure the minister is aware of the

accelerating practice of major chain stores to join forces for the creation of buying groups to extract higher discounts and allowances from food suppliers.

The minister may also be aware that the power of the major chains in this province continues to increase at the expense of independents and that last year their share of grocery sales in Ontario went to 75.1 per cent of the market compared to 71.9 per cent in 1977 and 26 per cent in the United States, a country that still believes in free enterprise and competition, both of which have to go hand in hand.

Is the minister concerned about this rapid concentration of power and the effect it will have on higher food prices and declining competition? Will he introduce, or ask the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell) to introduce, an amendment to the Farm Products Marketing Act which will prohibit unfair trade practices in the marketing of farm products in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I think the honourable member knows full well that the issue of mergers of corporations that might create purchasing patterns that would be to the detriment of small retail outlets, processors and producers is something everyone has to be concerned about.

There was a royal commission on that particular issue and the member knows very well that the commissioner found the discounting practices were indeed producing benefits that were being passed on to consumers. He also knows the commissioner recommended that only very unusual circumstances would justify re-examining the issue at all.

Loblaws and Provigo in Quebec have such a merger in place that presumably improved their market position and without doubt passed on savings to the customer. We cannot help but reflect, as the commissioner did, that there was good evidence the savings were passed on to customers. Nevertheless, I still cannot disagree with the member that one has to have some serious concerns about mergers that may bring long-term problems as opposed to short-term benefits to consumers.

I do not want to pass the buck, but the issue of competition and combines is a federal issue, and in this federal state we live in the division of power has made it so for reasons that were deemed appropriate. I have already written to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs in Ottawa asking him to review these events in the light of that legislation.

The member also made a comparison between market share in the United States and in Canada. We cannot abstract those figures arbi-

trarily without recognizing that our situation is different from theirs. The geography and population distribution of each country are entirely different and it may well be that logic requires rationalizations within the industry that are different from what may occur in the United States. I think the member has to take that into account.

Mr. Riddell: I am very interested to get the minister's comments on that royal commission report. I attended some of the hearings and it was certainly not driven home to me that the consumers were benefiting from these unfair trading practices on the part of the major chain stores.

It is not good enough to pass the buck to Ottawa, because it was under section 95 of the British North America Act that we were able to establish the Farm Products Marketing Act in this province. We do have jurisdiction over some of these trading practices and we can rectify them through legislation.

Is the minister aware of the list of inquiries that have been established in the past by this government to address the concerns of food suppliers and independent retailers about the unfair trade practices as they occurred and recurred? Is the minister aware that we had an inquiry into matters relating to the sale and distribution of fruits and vegetables in Ontario in 1969, we had the inquiry on wholesale and retail pricing practices for fluid milk in Ontario in 1977, we had the report of the standing committee on resources development to examine discounting practices in 1978, and finally we had the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Discounting and Allowances in the Food Industry in Ontario in 1980?

How many more inquiries is it going to take to convince the minister and his government that they simply have to act now to prohibit price discrimination in the marketing of food in this province so that we may still have some independent retailers and some independent suppliers when this is all over with?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I did not think I indicated any lack of interest in the problem in my answer. I indicated where the jurisdiction lies. The Minister of Agriculture and Food may well want to look at it under the exemption given to marketing boards.

It is interesting that the member should recount the number of inquiries there have been. I would only say to him that is perhaps why Commissioner Leach said: "No more inquiries. We have had enough." I find that in general the discounting practices have not produced anything detrimental to the farmer and to the

consumer. In spite of all that—and let us talk person to person—I think one still has to have concerns about mergers such as this, which may have long-term detrimental effects on small retail outlets in particular, on the producers and the processors, and, in the long run, on consumers.

I have already met with the Consumers' Association of Canada to get its views. I am meeting with some of the food producers next week or the week after. I have written to the federal Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs outlining my view that he should have this problem reviewed by the combines branch. I would like to reaffirm that it is not a matter of my disinterest in this problem.

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, is the minister aware that the Leach report he is leaning on so heavily this afternoon is perhaps the most discredited document that has been brought to this government in recent years? It was laughed out of the house by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, which asked the government not to receive the report at all. Since he is leaning on the Leach report, will the minister table in the House any information he has from the report or elsewhere to indicate that the savings the supermarkets make by exacting these large discounts are passed on to the consumer? Where is that information? Nobody has it. It seems to be only in the minister's mind and in Judge Leach's mind.

May I suggest to the minister, instead of passing the buck to Ottawa on the question of concentration—admittedly that is a long-term problem and it is Ottawa's—that he take action now, either along the lines taken in the United States or along the lines suggested by the member for Huron-Middlesex, by some form of unfair business practices legislation that will eliminate this practice here, which makes the big get bigger and victimizes everybody in the process?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I do not think I have to table the commissioner's report for the benefit of the Legislature. Each member will have received a copy of it and they have access to any documentation or evidence that was presented before the commission. Just so the facts are known, I would like to point out that these questions are being asked in a province that probably has the most competitive food prices of any province in Canada, and I suspect the member knows that.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I am interested that it is the member's opinion that the Leach commission

was useless. I think everyone should take note of the member's view, but he should not say it so blandly and grandly as if all the world understands that. That is the member's opinion.

2:40 p.m.

INCO LAYOFFS

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development in the absence of the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope).

May I make the heroic assumption that the provincial secretary is aware of the announced job reduction of over 850 jobs at Inco Ltd. in Sudbury and that, following that announced layoff or job reduction, meetings were held between the company, the union, the regional municipality, MPs and MPPs from that area?

As a result of those meetings some specific commitments were made by this government to provide funding and to provide 50 jobs in a research project at Creighton mine and 30 jobs in the tailings area. Up to this point no money at all has been forthcoming from this government. Can the provincial secretary tell us why the government has not lived up to its promise to provide that funding?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Natural Resources is in Washington today. I will be glad to refer that question to him and he can answer it next week.

Mr. Laughren: When he is talking to the minister, would the provincial secretary ask him not only why he has failed to provide funding for jobs that was supposed to be shared jointly with the federal government, but also has failed in some specific obligations he personally undertook; for example, to spend money on the recapping and fencing of abandoned mine sites and also to look after the problem of improved on the job training? The Minister of Natural Resources himself specifically promised.

Does the provincial secretary not understand there are workers in Sudbury who have received their layoff notices who would like to make up their minds on whether they will have future jobs in the Sudbury area or whether they are going to have to leave town and go on unemployment insurance? Does he not understand the urgency of this problem? Would the provincial secretary get on the telephone to the minister so we can have an immediate reply, because he is not living up to a very firm commitment he made?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: I can assure the member the Minister of Natural Resources of this province is a man we are all very proud of and if he made a promise he will live up to it.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I know it is probably unfair to ask the minister this but I will anyway. A few years ago, one of his predecessors promised us a committee on one-industry towns which was supposed to be chaired by the member for Muskoka (Mr. F. S. Miller). That cabinet committee seems to have dissolved and in place of it supposedly there was a group of civil servants set up to deal with one-industry towns and the problems my friend has alluded to.

Can the minister tell us the present status of that committee? Has he had a report from it and, if so, will he make it available to the House?

Hon. Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, that committee is in place. I have not had a report since I became provincial secretary but I will have the opportunity of speaking to them. I can assure the member that the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier) and the provincial secretary who was ahead of me were involved any time there were planned shutdowns in single-industry towns.

CHEMICAL SPILL

Mr. Ruprecht: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. The minister is well aware the residents of the Junction triangle area have been complaining for over a decade about pollution problems. In spite of the ministry's assurances that airborne emissions from industries in the area are acceptable, my own survey indicates there are not only complaints of odours from air emissions but also complaints of odours from the sewer system.

Since the minister's officials now believe the incident on Tuesday was caused by the illegal dumping of large quantities of vinyl acetate in the sewer system, would the minister conduct a public inquiry into the environmental practices of all industries in the Junction triangle area?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, first I would like to correct some misunderstanding on the part of the honourable member shown in the preamble to his question. He indicated it was his understanding that officials in my ministry had concluded the recent incident was the result of major illegal dumping of vinyl acetate. I do not believe we are yet able to state categorically that is the case.

The investigation is continuing into the possibility of leaks having occurred. Also, the special investigation unit of my ministry has been involved and is now conducting an investigation into other possibilities.

Furthermore, it has not yet been possible to conclusively state that the chemical involved is vinyl acetate, although the member is correct in

saying that is what is suspected. It is probably the most likely possibility.

I want to assure the member that I have not foreclosed any possibilities in terms of follow-up on this incident and the other matters to which he has referred, that have from time to time resulted in complaints from residents of that community.

I do think it is too early to determine whether what he has referred to as an inquiry would be the appropriate way in which to proceed. In fact, what is under way right now is a very thorough investigation by not only the inspectors from my ministry but also the special investigation unit. I think I ought not to determine what the most appropriate course of action would be until I have the full results of that investigation.

Mr. Ruprecht: If the minister is not able to determine after two days what this spill is all about, and he tells us that he does not know where it came from, I will take the liberty of saying that would indicate to me at least that his ministry is not capable of analysing that kind of spill.

Mr. Speaker: I am waiting patiently for the supplementary.

Mr. Ruprecht: Let me ask the other question. The minister has probably read my question of Tuesday to the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Mr. Henderson) on the fact—

An hon. member: We cannot hear the member.

Mr. Ruprecht: I know the minister can hear me. He will have to tell his colleagues.

Mr. Speaker: We can hear the member quite well.

Mr. Ruprecht: The minister has probably read my statement and my questions about the spills bill. It has not yet been proclaimed in spite of the fact that it received third reading 28 months ago. We know that a copy of the draft of regulations to the—

Mr. Speaker: Now for the question.

Mr. Ruprecht: —bill has been in the possession of one of the minister's solicitors since Monday. When will these draft regulations come before the standing committee on resources development for consideration so that in the future companies responsible for illegal chemical spills will be prosecuted and fined heavily, rather than merely being slapped on the wrist? Does the minister not think the time has finally come to act?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I realize the abortive

question that did not quite get completed invites at least a brief response.

Mr. Speaker: Very briefly.

Hon. Mr. Norton: The suggestion that because approximately two days have passed since we became aware of the problem to which the member is referring in the Junction triangle area somehow shows a lack of competence and capacity on the part of the staff of my ministry to deal with the situation only reflects the total lack of understanding on the part of the member of the complexity of these kinds of problems in our society.

We have had people on site from the very beginning. It is true one of the things that has made it rather difficult up to now—and tests are still going on—to determine for certain whether it was vinyl acetate is because we were first notified by the fire department, and when our staff arrived on the scene shortly thereafter the fire department had already flushed the sewers. As a result, samples were very difficult to come by. That has been a bit of a problem in terms of making a firm identification of the chemical, but it is not because of any lack of competence or response capacity on the part of the ministry.

As I understand, the spills regulations are to be returned to the staff of my ministry today and a meeting between them and the legislative counsel has been arranged. If I am not mistaken, I think the meeting is scheduled for this evening.

2:50 p.m.

In terms of the time that has been required, I think it is important that members also understand that what we are embarking on here is really something which is breaking new ground. What we are doing in our spills regulations will be standing for years to come, I suspect, as a model for other jurisdictions. It is not a matter of simply taking a precedent from other jurisdictions and copying it, because we are breaking new ground. We are setting the precedents. That does take more time than simply plagiarizing.

Mr. Charlton: Mr. Speaker, we were expecting a statement which the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development suggested the minister would be making on the spill here today. Will the minister assure us we will get a full statement in the House next week on this issue?

Will he assure us that some very important questions that were raised here on Tuesday will be answered, such as how it happened that a combustible chemical got access to the sewer system in the first place? Will he also look into the matter of why it was felt necessary to evacuate the Ashbridges Bay sewage treatment

plant yesterday, but there appeared to be no consideration of an evacuation of the citizens in the area where the spill was first discovered?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I was away at a funeral on Tuesday when that question was asked. I had not realized anyone had made a specific commitment for a statement. I certainly have responded to the questions. I shall make a commitment to the members of this House to keep them fully informed, as I have always done and will continue to do.

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Provincial Secretary for Social Development in the absence of the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Drea). It is regarding mental health services for children, specifically in the Windsor area.

Is the minister aware that the waiting lists for care at the regional children's centre in Windsor are as follows: 150 children waiting for care for neuropsychology face an average wait of 12 months; 50 children waiting for psychology assistance and treatment will wait six to seven months; there are several referrals in terms of social work assistance from doctors, and 47 of them will be waiting for four to five months?

Does the minister think that is just? Does she think that is good medical care for children? What is she going to do about it? Specifically, what's she going to do for Jay Ashley, who is a three-year-old child living at 1165 Jefferson in Windsor? He needs speech therapy and is going to have to wait one year for services from that regional centre covered by the Ontario health insurance plan. What kind of medical care is that for children in Windsor?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Mr. Speaker, no, I was not aware of those specific figures the member has indicated are prevalent in Windsor. I do not agree that is good mental health care for children who are in need of specialized care, if it is true.

I will be consulting with the minister responsible, who indicated in this House earlier that the funding for children's mental health centres has been greatly increased. I will be asking him to advise the member on the specifics about the case he has brought to our attention.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, since these waiting lists have been getting longer but have been a problem for a considerable period of time, will the minister also make herself aware of the fact that because this family care so much about their child they have enlisted a private speech therapist at \$25 per half hour, and since that is

not covered by OHIP it will cost them \$1,000 per year while they are waiting for insured services?

Is this what the minister and her government consider equitable treatment and access to our health care system, and is she proud of that system?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated before, no, I do not believe that should be happening and I will bring it to the attention of the minister.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, will the provincial secretary also check with the minister why there has been a satellite regional centre approved and on the books in the Leamington area near Windsor for eight and a half years, and why the director of the only community residence equipped to deal with emotionally disturbed female adolescents said yesterday that he turns away 15 to 20 girls a year who are "at risk of imminent danger, suicidal, capable of uncontrollable violence, dangerous to themselves or others"? He also estimated that 20 girls ran away from the same institution last year because they did not have proper supervision. Is this the kind of mental health care this government is providing for our young people?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: No, Mr. Speaker, that is not the kind of mental health care we are providing for the people of this province.

Ms. Copps: It was a quote directly from the director yesterday.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: As I recall, there have been other quotes from that particular member which have not proved to be factual. I think we will check those facts first.

NURSING HOME CARE

Mr. McGuigan: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Health how he condones the sale of the Barnwell Nursing Home in Ridgetown, the licence of which is under a cloud? It is commonly known that the beds sell for at least \$10,000 each. With simple interest of 18.5 per cent, on an annual cost that adds just a few cents over \$5 per day to the carrying costs of a bed. That is about 14 per cent of the total daily fee of \$34 per bed.

How can the minister condone a system that rewards operators who fail to upgrade the facilities—and this happens many times in Ontario—then put the operating profits in their pockets and sell the licences and the homes at huge capital gains? The minister then punishes the residents of the home, in this case those in the Barnwell home, by forcing them to move 35 kilometres to another centre. How can the

minister condone that system?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I have difficulty with the concept that we are punishing residents of nursing homes where an operator does not meet ministry standards by requiring them to move into a nursing home that does meet proper standards. I would consider it would be punishing them to have a situation where we allowed them to stay in a nursing home where we felt the standards were not good enough.

If we do not take this kind of action there could be tragedy and, in the event there is something less than tragedy, there would at least be circumstances continuing in that nursing home and others we have taken action on which I would find intolerable.

It is understandably less convenient for some people who are visiting the residents of those nursing homes to have to travel the extra 23 kilometres to another nursing home. I understand that, but ultimately I have to weigh that against leaving them in a place we feel is inadequate. I would much rather have them travel the extra 23 kilometres, knowing their relatives are being well looked after, safely looked after and well treated, than have them travel a shorter distance to inadequate facilities. I am comfortable with that situation.

Mr. McGuigan: I would agree with the last part of the minister's answer, that they are better off in a proper facility. Why can he not withdraw that licence because obviously, in his own words, they do not deserve the licence; take it back and let someone else have the opportunity to bid on the licence and put it up in the community so the people could be in their own community and have a good facility at a saving of \$5 a day to the government? That cost is being capitalized in the operation of the home that is now being moved to another community.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: As I know the member is aware, my friend the member for Chatham-Kent (Mr. Watson) has brought this to my attention and has asked that a group of concerned citizens come in to see me with regard to the very points the member has raised.

There is some validity to that point, as the member for Chatham-Kent has pointed out. Therefore, I have agreed to meet with that group, consider all the ramifications and alternatives of this particular move and have a careful look at the transaction. That will be done when my friend the member for Chatham-Kent brings in his delegation.

3 p.m.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister, and he is aware that I have communicated with him on this matter, when he is transferring a licence to a new buyer of a nursing home is that not just a natural consequence of a nursing home system that is privately owned and run for profit rather than for care of the elderly? In this particular case, since the building does not meet the nursing home regulation, what he has done effectively is sold the beds to the owner, not the building.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: As the member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. McGuigan) pointed out, part of this involves a mechanism whereby the nursing homes' capital costs are, in part, looked after by the per diem and, in a longer term, looked after under the terms in which the right to provide services to patients is sold or transferred. Whether that is a satisfactory system or not I must admit to the member for Windsor-Riverside it gives me some trouble. Whether there is a better system, a simpler system, or a more equitable system that has not only a better appearance to it but a better sense of equity to it, I do not know. But it is something which, I admit readily, concerns me.

In terms of the current situation, I see no alternative but to let those who have gone in in good faith, operated by and large, without specific reference to any nursing home, a fairly good nursing home, have the right to recover part of their operating costs and equity by virtue of the system that is now in place.

I am quite open to any suggestions or alternatives to the present system which may speak better to the question of the right to treat patients. As to whether we are in something which has an appearance which is unfortunate and uncalled for, as I say I have no magic answer to that; I admit that the system troubles me.

WHITE FARM EQUIPMENT

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry and Trade who is a signatory to the report of the select committee on economic and cultural nationalism.

In view of the statement made by his predecessor on March 2, 1981, justifying the provincial government's \$2 million loan and \$3 million loan guarantee as part of the federal-provincial package of guarantees to White Farm Equipment division, which reads, in part, "this financial assistance will allow the company to come into Canadian hands"; and also in view of the commitment, so called, in the throne speech to the buy back Canadian program, how can the minister justify the stance he is taking with regard to the negotiations on White Farm?

Hon. Mr. Walker: We had two real concerns in respect to the White Farm matter. I wanted to make sure that we had a viable, long-term package that would continue there in terms of an employer in the Brantford area, to make sure that 750 employees returned to work. When the decision is one of whether 750 employees get back to work or stay out on the bricks, it is a very easy decision to make. I think the member would make it the same way.

Mr. Wildman: Instead of taking the position the minister is now taking, why is he not implementing the recommendation of the select committee's report specifically empowering the Ontario Development Corporation to secure acquisitions of foreign enterprises to gain control for Ontario and Canadian owners? Why is he not implementing that? He signed and supported it. When is he going to bring it in?

Hon. Mr. Walker: I think it is extremely important that we ensure—

Mr. Martel: Who signed it? Did the minister not sign that?

Hon. Mr. Walker: I am not sure if I signed the document.

Mr. Martel: Yes. I looked today. I made sure.

Hon. Mr. Walker: I probably put in a legally continuing dissent. If I did not, I probably should have. Whatever the case, I would say that the Ontario Development Corporation or, for that matter the province, has a sufficient stake at the moment in this particular company with some \$2 million in terms of direct grants and \$3 million in loans and guarantees of loans and additional guarantees as well.

Given that, and given the federal participation, I think the province and the federal government have a significant level. I do not think what the honourable member is suggesting—some form of nationalization—is warranted.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, does it not concern the minister that the American shareholder was the individual who vetoed the offer of a \$20 million federal loan that would have tided them over their present difficulties and kept the more than 700 employees working? It is the same individual who, after vetoing the offer of federal assistance, is now making the offer the minister feels he cannot refuse. How can he justify that situation and why should he act unilaterally before his federal colleague rather than in concert with him? That is the way the activity was carried out a year ago when both Massey-Ferguson and White were in such terrible difficulty.

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, I have two or three points to make. We had this discussion the other day and I think the honourable Liberal member is wrong in his assumption that a veto can be made. My information is that a veto could not have been made by the American because he is the minority shareholder of the company, albeit by one share. The company is the one that rejected the loan offer. The company, therefore, must have rejected it on the basis of a vote of the shareholders, and the majority of the shareholders are Canadians—by one vote. Maybe there should be a little bit more reading done on the honourable member's part. He will find out that, technically, the veto could not have been accomplished.

That being the case, it must have been a rejection by the Canadian shareholder because a Canadian had the majority of the shares. It was the company that communicated the message that the company had rejected the proposal that had been submitted some time ago in terms of a loan. That is the one thing to keep in mind.

Mr. Nixon: But that is not right. You are the minister and you are misinformed.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Walker: This is the information I have. Is the member trying to tell me now there is a reversal of the ownership roles? I do not think that is so.

Mr. Nixon: You are the one who had it mixed up. You said it was 50-50.

Hon. Mr. Walker: I did not have it mixed up at all.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: It is extremely important the minister in charge of this government policy that is going to permit, if he has his way, the sellout of this Canadian interest to an American firm, should surely be careful the information he gives the House is correct. It should not just be his surmise. He indicated to the House before he thought it was a 50-50 ownership—

Mr. Speaker: Order. With great respect that is not a point of order. It is up to the minister to be responsible for whatever he says.

BUDGET

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Premier. As the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) is now preparing his budget for the fiscal year 1982-83, is the Premier considering any changes in government policy as it relates to government revenue increases through taxation

by regulations rather than by legislative approval?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I do not quite understand the import of the question. I am sure the honourable member will be aware when the Treasurer's budget comes in exactly what financial matters will be contemplated. If he waits patiently until then that answer will become obvious.

Mr. Haggerty: I am not surprised by the Premier's answer to my question and I suppose I should have used "order in council." However there are already suggestions that there will be increases in motor vehicle taxes. The precedent was established last year in the Treasurer's budget and in actions by this government in purchasing Suncor. Somebody has to pay for it, and it is done by regulation or order in council. I suggest that when the minister brings the budget forward we do not have a heavy expenditure similar to last year's with the Suncor purchase.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The honourable member knows there are some occasions when we adjust park fees and so on by order in council or changing regulations. I do not recall any significant alteration in revenue policy that is not contained in the budget.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour regarding Irwin Toy Ltd. on Hanna Avenue, a favourite company of ours, and the use of methyl ethyl ketone. Is the minister aware the workers now draw daily supplies of this MEK, as it is called, from the company paint room as it is needed for thinning the glues? Is the minister aware that there is no exhaust system around the work tables and that there is no exhaust ventilation system in the plant itself to remove the fumes? Is the minister further aware that no protective clothing and gloves or face masks are provided and consequently the women there are suffering from eye irritation, sore throats, skin burns, dizziness and nausea? Will he send someone in to investigate immediately?

3:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, on one occasion I had discussed the problems at Irwin Toy Ltd. with the member's colleague, the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie). In fact I sent him over a note before question period today to state that I wanted to talk to him at that time about the circumstances at Irwin Toy Ltd.

Mr. Martel: It is a different plant.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I did not realize that. No, I

am not aware of the particular circumstances the member is describing.

ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS

Mr. Riddell: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: Last week I asked the Minister of Agriculture and Food a question about the length of time it is taking to process the applications for the farm adjustment assistance program. After the minister gave his answer and it was reported in the news media, I was informed by the bank managers that the minister was terribly misinformed, and that it was taking as much as eight weeks and more to process these applications because they had to go to the regional bank which was—

Mr. Speaker: Order. That is not a point of privilege.

Mr. Riddell: Why isn't it? He misinformed the House. He inadvertently misinformed the House because of the bad information he is getting.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Point of privilege. The Minister of Agriculture and Food.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, inasmuch as the honourable member has seen fit for whatever reason to try to impugn my integrity, if he will check the record, I said I had been advised, and I have been advised several times since, that it takes approximately two weeks from the time the application leaves the local case committee to the time a decision is rendered at the head office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

Mr. Riddell: That is not right.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: With respect—

Mr. Riddell: The bank managers tell me that is not right.

Mr. Speaker: Order. This is developing into a debate. I am sure you have both made your positions clear.

ROYAL ASSENT

Mr. Speaker: I beg to inform the House that in the name of Her Majesty the Queen, the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor has been pleased to assent to a bill in his chambers.

Clerk of the House: The following is the title of the act to which His Honour has assented:

Bill 8, An Act to amend the Fuel Tax Act, 1981.

PETITION

GOVERNMENT JET

Mr. Ruprecht: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition signed by hundreds of people that reads:

"We, the people of Ontario, strongly protest the purchase of a fourth executive aircraft at a

price of \$10.6 million. We hereby petition the Premier to sell this jet, using the savings for essential social services or day care spaces or to maintain quality health care or to create jobs or for interest relief for mortgages."

REPORT

STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. Barlow from the standing committee on general government presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bill with certain amendments:

Bill Pr3, An Act respecting the City of Toronto.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE OMBUDSMAN

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that the motion for adoption of the recommendations contained in the ninth report of the select committee on the Ombudsman, 1981, being sessional paper 309 tabled December 14, 1981, be revived and placed on the Order Paper for further debate.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

EDUCATION AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Miss Stephenson moved, seconded by Hon. Mrs. Birch, first reading of Bill 46, An Act to amend the Education Act.

Motion agreed to.

FARM PRODUCTS MARKETING AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Riddell moved, seconded by Mr. McGuigan, first reading of Bill 47, An Act to amend the Farm Products Marketing Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill is to prohibit unfair practices in the marketing of farm products in Ontario. These unfair practices include the arrangement of price advantages in the form of rebates, discounts or allowances between some sellers of a farm product and some buyers of the farm product to the exclusion of other buyers and sellers of the same product. The effect of these practices is to create hardship for the buyers and sellers who are excluded from these arrangements and will eventually reduce the level of competition in the market for the farm product.

Provision is made in the bill for orders for

compliance, assurances of voluntary compliance and enforcement of orders and insurances.

I would like to say that the reason there is still free enterprise and competition in the food industry in the United States is because the American government saw fit to pass the Robinson-Patman Act which prohibited unfair trading practices. We are trying to do exactly that with this bill.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Ruston moved, seconded by Mr. G. I. Miller, first reading of Bill 48, An Act to amend the Legislative Assembly Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Ruston: The explanatory note for this bill is rather brief, as is the bill.

The bill provides for a deduction of \$100 from a member's indemnity for each day of absence from the assembly while it is in session unless the absence is because of illness, pregnancy, childbirth or official business.

Interjections.

Mr. Mackenzie: If you would bring the House to order, Mr. Speaker?

3:20 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: I was going to suggest the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) and the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio) please control themselves.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved, seconded by Mr. Laughren, first reading of Bill 49, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to extend the scope of section 40(a) of the Employment Standards Act to incorporate all employees with at least one year's seniority whose employment is terminated as a result of the permanent discontinuance or reduction of all or part of the employer's business. As we all know, at present the severance pay kicks in only if 50 or more employees are involved and only after five years' service. Given the comments made earlier today by the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye), if the Liberals will support us this time maybe we can do something with this particular legislation.

RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES AMENDMENT ACTS

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, I will be introducing a package of 10 bills dealing with the Landlord

and Tenant Act and rent review. Rather than give an explanation after each bill, I simply indicate to you now that these bills are endorsed by the Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations and they would go a long way to improving tenants' rights in this province.

Mr. Philip moved, seconded by Mr. Di Santo, first reading of Bill 50, An Act to amend the Residential Tenancies Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: I wonder if the honourable member would give consideration, provided we can get the unanimous consent of the House, to introducing all his remaining bills at the same time?

Mr. Philip: If that is possible, it will save an awful lot of time.

Mr. Speaker: Do we have unanimous consent?

Agreed to.

Mr. Philip moved, seconded by Mr. Di Santo, first reading of Bills 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58 and 59, each entitled An Act to amend the Residential Tenancies Act.

Motions agreed to.

Mr. Philip: I think I have given my brief explanation. If anyone wants to know any more about the bills he can read my press release, which is in the gallery.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

GOVERNMENT JET

Mr. Bradley moved, seconded by Mr. Conway, resolution 11:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should sell the Canadian Challenger 600 business jet aircraft whose purchase was announced on August 11, 1981, in view of the fact that the Premier and cabinet ministers already have suitable and more economic means of travel, that with a \$1.466 billion provincial deficit, funds would have to be borrowed at the rate of at least 15 per cent to cover the cost of the purchase, that the cost of fuel, storage, pilots and maintenance would be far in excess of that for alternative forms of air travel and that this aircraft would be unable to land at many Ontario airports, and in view of the fact that the expenditure of \$10.6 million for the purchase and ancillary expenditures resulting would be better used to assist the people of Ontario who are confronted with the burdens of unemployment, inflation and excessive taxation.

Mr. Speaker: Before the honourable member proceeds, I would like to advise him that he has up to 20 minutes for his presentation and he may reserve any portion of that time for his windup if he so desires.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, I raise this issue in the private members' hour because I feel that at a time when Ontario is faced with great economic difficulties, and when a number of people in my own constituency and other constituencies across this province are suffering considerable hardship, this stands out as an example of extravagance on the part of the government of Ontario.

It does little to help people, such as laid-off auto workers, financially strapped senior citizens, struggling farmers, the desperate single parent or perhaps the forgotten psychiatric patient, in the many municipalities across this province.

It does, however, provide for the Premier, the cabinet ministers and senior government officials what they would consider to be an efficient, comfortable and convenient manner of travelling.

This afternoon, I do not seek to deny cabinet ministers and senior government officials the opportunity to have the use of transportation modes which, in 1982, are accepted as being necessary for their travel. I do not in any way want to restrict the travel of cabinet ministers who at the present time have the use of aircraft available to the government, or who want to use commercial airlines or charter aircraft to go from one area to another. I recognize the importance of time to senior officials and cabinet ministers and, most particularly, to the Premier.

Even though I often kid my friend, the member for Mississauga East (Mr. Gregory), the chief government whip, about the limousine available for his use, I am not standing in the House this afternoon to condemn the use of those vehicles for cabinet ministers. In fact, they are available for the Leader of the Opposition and the leader of the third party. Again, I recognize that cabinet ministers must work while they are travelling. They must have the lamp and the phone; those are not unnecessary luxuries.

I recognize that ministers have to be in the House for question period, they have to be prepared for question period and for various speaking engagements. I also recognize that sometimes their days are very long and they do not get a chance for much sleep and by having a driver and a car available to them they perhaps have that opportunity to get the rest which is very much needed.

I know also that on occasion some tragedies have occurred because this service has not been available. I think we all recall the case of the former leader of the Social Credit party in Quebec, who died in a car accident in that province. We know of other busy, public people who have had the misfortune to be involved in vehicle accidents because they did not have the use of a government limousine.

As long as the use of these vehicles is appropriate and is not abused, I have no objection to that or to the mode of travel the cabinet ministers have at present. I do, however, object to the purchase of a luxurious, well-appointed executive jet for the comfort and convenience of the Premier, his cabinet and senior officials at the expense of hard-pressed taxpayers in this province.

3:30 p.m.

I object to the misuse of those kinds of funds in any political jurisdiction. I heard on the news, and through coverage of the federal question period, that three federal cabinet ministers had used three separate aircraft to go to Winnipeg, I think it was, on the same day. I do not know the individual circumstances of that, but on the surface that is an abuse of a privilege that is available to cabinet ministers. I condemn that at the federal level if it exists there.

I noticed that in Quebec the Premier had to tame some of his cabinet ministers who had special privileges. Their vehicles had television sets or something of that nature; they were well appointed. Then there were their travel plans and preparations. I condemn that also.

In Ontario, we have a chance to set a good example rather than to follow a bad example. That is what I am calling upon the government of Ontario to do today when I call upon it to sell the newly purchased executive jet.

From the beginning, this has had a rather unfortunate connotation. The announcement of the purchase of the jet was made, I will not say secretly but very quietly. The Premier was at a conference on the west coast—as far away from Ontario, I suppose, as one could be and still be in Canada—when this was announced.

The cabinet apparently approved the purchase at its July 22 meeting. The contract was signed some time around August 1 but the announcement was not made until August 11. The \$10.6-million price tag was not included in the press release or in the memo given to the person who composed that press release. There was no mention of the completion work to be done in Texas in that release.

This is in contrast to the usual fanfare that surrounds any government announcement,

which includes a dinner at the local Tory establishment and the minister coming in and making a big announcement. That was not done in this case. It was instead done very quietly.

Perhaps the memories of unfortunate circumstances in the past with the use of government airplanes by cabinet ministers were in the minds of the government ministers at that time. Perhaps they did not want to be tagged—unfairly, they would feel—with this kind of connotation once again.

Interestingly enough, my attempt to get information in November as to the legal status of the government's commitment to purchase was greeted with the suggestion that if a member were interested in this information, he should ask the minister directly since this material was not in the public domain. That was a request for information about whether the government actually was committed legally to make the purchase. It was a request made of an official in the Ministry of Natural Resources. That was the reply I got at that time. I thought it was a little on the secretive side.

Looking at it in terms of cost and interest, the purchase price was \$10.6 million, which is a considerable sum for an aircraft even in the year 1982, and I guess the interest that will be paid will be at least 15 per cent in the context of this particular year. I think 15 per cent would probably be a modest estimate.

The yearly cost in interest would be \$1.6 million. I remember the former leader of the New Democratic Party was quoted as saying it would be \$6,000 a day when he raised it through a question or a supplementary question in the House at that time.

We are talking about a considerable amount of money which, in my view, could be used in a far better way than this is being used at the present time.

We can ask: "What are some of the alternatives? Does the government not have to modernize its fleet?" I will not go into the facts and figures on this, but several people did studies that showed they could take jets day after day by chartering them and still be way ahead of the \$10.6 million the government is going to spend. We have to remember that there is the cost of the maintenance, the pilot, the fuel and things of that nature. We have to look at it in that context.

We have commercial airlines. I appreciate that ministers are busy sometimes and do not want to be bugged by the general public when they are trying to do business on planes, but they do have commercial aircraft, and I am sure people can be understanding about that. If there is not a great hurry, commercial aircraft can be used.

Also available to cabinet ministers are the aircraft which are currently owned by the government. These have been adequate for some time in the past and probably have been used to transport members from all parties in this House, and not only those on the government side. They have been quite adequate for that.

What I am pointing out is that I do not think it is really needed. There are alternatives to this executive jet, which is the kind that is available to those who have a great taste for this kind of perk, such as I understand the multinational corporation executives would have.

There are also limitations to it. We have heard the fact, and the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope) likes to make much of this, that it can be used as an air ambulance. When we look at transportation modes in the province, that is an enviable use, but no one is going to fool this House into believing for one moment that there was very much consideration given to using it as an air ambulance. That is simply an excuse to justify its use by the Premier and the cabinet for their convenience, luxury and efficiency.

Various comments have been made in the media about this. Various studies have been done, for instance, that say the 38,500-pound luxury jet cannot land on a gravel strip and needs a 5,000-foot runway under most conditions, which rules out all but 22 of Ontario's 78 public airports.

I suppose if one dumped fuel or ran on half a load and so on, one might be able to get into a few more of the airports. But surely, for those remote areas which would most require the use of government aircraft, this would not be of use as an air ambulance. To me, that is simply an excuse for making this purchase, although if one had a craft for that reason alone—not this one, but some craft for that purpose alone—that would be reasonable.

The Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier) is here and he recognizes that one of the problems of the north is that we require aircraft to get to various centres. My specific objection is to this particular aircraft.

I well recall the former leader of the Liberal Party, even though it was a Friday afternoon and nobody was here, making what I considered a rather devastating speech to this House; it was five or six minutes long. All he did was read a list of all the prosthetic devices that are not covered by the Ontario hospital insurance plan. He listed them in great detail. These were not provided for in expenditures by the government.

Then he listed all the luxuries—what do we call those things when you get a car?

Mr. Wrye: Options.

Mr. Bradley: He listed all the options and appointments that are available in the jet. He concluded that, to him, this best characterized the priorities of this government. It was pretty devastating stuff. Okay, it was on a Friday afternoon, when most people were not here, but I thought that more than at any time during the Premier's estimates that had a pretty strong impact on those of us who happened to be assembled here on that afternoon. I will not repeat his speech, but I thought it was worthy of consideration at a time when we do require expenditures other than this.

There are other priorities. For instance, the Minister of Health (Mr. Grossman) has been asked about hospitals and the funds for more hospital care. Many communities would like to have computerized axial tomography scanners, machines that are very useful in diagnosis. We have some of them in the province. They are great to have. We have three now in the Metropolitan Toronto area. They have one in Hamilton. We would love to have one in the Niagara Peninsula. I know the doctors in the area would like to have that. That is the kind of thing I would see as a reasonable expenditure.

We have a need for staff within the hospitals. In talking to nurses and other people working in the hospitals, they say they are at their wits' end in attempting to serve the people in their jurisdictions.

3:40 p.m.

On the subject of nursing homes, both the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) and I received copies of a letter about the fact that people whose parents just cannot look after themselves any more—in the context of a society where many women are working and so the younger family has a hard time looking after people—were unable to get them into nursing homes. In the Niagara Peninsula we simply do not have those spaces available.

I look at the fact that we have an ageing population. I look at the fact that we need a good level of care for these people. Our senior citizens require dignity. This aircraft brings nothing to their dignity.

The health units around the province would like to have funds for preventive care. They would like to get out in the community. They have to look after food, public places, pools and things of that nature. They require funds. We need further research to conquer dread disease. We have taken some steps in that direction. Money could be applied to that.

In education, the provincial share as a percentage is declining in terms of the boards of education and the province providing funds. The minister announced cuts to continuing education earlier this week. Costs are associated with Bill 82, the new bill for those who have been forgotten in this system in the past, who require special education. Colleges and universities in our highly competitive world are crying out for more funds to make them effective.

Municipalities need funds for various services. They feel they are not getting sufficient. The property tax becomes even more important, and the property tax does not take into consideration whether a man or a woman is laid off and what kind of financial state that person finds himself or herself in. The municipalities require assistance.

There are needs for job creation, capital works projects and staff in essential areas such as the Ministry of the Environment, as well as difficulties faced by the automotive industry, which will be addressed later this afternoon. We have inflation confronting us and taxes such as the ad valorem gasoline tax. Provincial income tax has been raised. We could use more exemptions from sales tax. We could confront the problems with the environment.

In terms of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, we could have more consumer protection. We could even look at the possibility of coming to some kind of agreement with the Re-Mor/Astra victims in terms of compensation. We have natural resources that are important, and we are crying out for some kind of reforestation program. The Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) requires more money for courthouses and so on.

The list goes on, and I could go on for some time talking about it. What I am saying is that there are far higher priorities in this province at this time than purchasing a jet for the Premier and the other members of cabinet.

A government that is already running a deficit of almost \$1.5 billion during this fiscal year does not need to go further into debt to buy a luxurious executive jet for the comfort and convenience of the Premier and his cabinet ministers and their senior officials.

As I pointed out, even at 15 per cent interest—which is low by today's standards—the cost of borrowing is \$1.6 million. When the costs of fuel, storage, pilots and maintenance are added to the capital cost, and the interest is paid on the money borrowed for the purchase, this expenditure can be seen to be most extravagant and unnecessary, particularly in the context of our present depressed economy in Ontario.

The purchase of this aircraft cannot be justi-

fied on the basis of the lack of an alternative mode of travel for the Premier and his fellow ministers, since the government already owns a turboprop Beechcraft King Air and a de Havilland Twin Otter. In addition, there are plenty of aircraft available for charter as well as commercial airlines, as I have mentioned.

The argument put forward by the government on many occasions is that of adaptability. That is simply not an argument that can be accepted. The very low-key announcement is an indication that the government was afraid to come clean with the people on this. I suspect, members of the assembly, that if they had to make the decision today to purchase, the Premier and the government would not purchase that craft in April 1982.

At a time when the people of Ontario are faced with the uncertainty of unemployment and the ravages of inflation, it is most inappropriate for the government of this province to embark upon this outrageous expenditure of tax dollars. Such funds could be better spent to create jobs, restore our health care system to its former high standards and assist those who are most badly affected by the downturn in our economy.

This resolution provides the government of Ontario with a golden opportunity not to follow a bad example set by others but to set a good example in public administration and the use of taxpayers' dollars.

Mr. Di Santo: Mr. Speaker, this resolution is a sign of despair on the part of the member for St. Catharines, as the private members' hour has become so irrelevant since March 19, 1981. I suspect he chose it to point out at what level this government is operating since it acquired a majority in the last election. I suspect he wants to show the uselessness of using this time to present a private bill, because the government will not take any account at all of the contributions of the members of the opposition.

The acquisition of this luxury jet is understandable in a way. I think it is a status symbol for the Progressive Conservative government after six years of being in a minority position and therefore having its hands tied. It is a financial status symbol. We were the last province to get one. Even the government of Nova Scotia had acquired a jet. I suspect the members of the cabinet must have devoted some meetings to deciding whether they could rid the government of its inferiority complex over being one of the few governments without a jet; so they bought one, a very luxurious one.

As the then member for Hamilton West mentioned in his speech on December 11, 1981, it is a very luxurious jet. It speaks to the

arrogance of this government because, now that it has a majority, we on this side of the House cannot stop the acquisition of the jet.

But the government may also be misjudging the public. It thinks that with a majority it is entitled to do whatever it wants. Perhaps it also is counting on the short memory of the public; perhaps it thinks that four years from now the people of Ontario will have forgotten that this government spent \$10.6 million for a jet which, as the member for St. Catharines said, cannot even land at all the airports of Ontario.

While we are discussing this resolution, I wish to point out a further 140 workers are being laid off today by de Havilland in the great riding of Downsview. In the de Havilland plant, 1,280 workers have been laid off indefinitely. There were 450 laid off last November, for a total of 664 in 1981; 475 were laid off on February 20 and 140 today. De Havilland, which is one of the most productive and most competitive Canadian companies, today is working at 80 per cent of its total work force, which at its peak was 5,400 workers.

3:50 p.m.

If the government of Ontario had intended to help de Havilland, which is an Ontario company, it had three choices. De Havilland manufactures three excellent aircraft, all short takeoff and landing aircraft that can land at every airport in the province.

The company manufactures the Dash-7 aircraft, a 50-passenger aircraft, for a cost of \$7 million. It also manufactures the Twin Otter, which is a great plane—more than 800 have been sold—and costs only \$1.5 million, one tenth the cost of the Challenger, the 20-seat plane bought by the government. The Twin Otter is a little bit noisy but extremely efficient. If the government had wanted to help de Havilland, it could have bought the little brother of the Dash-7, the Dash-8, a 36-passenger airliner that costs only \$4.5 million.

All of these aircraft are much less expensive than the jet bought by the government, and a purchase of one of them by the government would have helped an Ontario company that is in trouble and has been laying off workers. It is laying off workers again today because of the market situation, because of the interest rates and because of lack of government help.

De Havilland was producing three Dash-7s a month before the last layoff. If this government had bought one plane from de Havilland, it would have contributed to 432,000 man-hours. That would have been a substantial contribution to an Ontario industry. But, above all, it would have meant that this government has

confidence in our industry and our workers. It also would have meant that this government has concrete confidence, not only the words offered when the minister stands up on the other side of the House and speaks rhetorically about our skilled manpower, which is among the best in the world. The government has not done that. It has not done that because it wanted a luxury aircraft.

At de Havilland, they do not produce the type of aircraft that is refurbished in Houston. They are efficient aircraft. This government made a mistake when it decided it should become, among the provinces of Canada, the province with the best jet. That is an offence against the people of Ontario who, at this very moment, are going through an economic crisis that is affecting every sector of this province and this nation.

As the previous speaker mentioned, the government of Ontario could have devoted that amount of money to social services or other services that this government is cutting back. More than that, the government would not have offended at a time of crisis the people who are without work, who are living in poverty, by buying a tool that is useless. Quite honestly, we will keep reminding the people of Ontario of the insensitivity of this government.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: First, Mr. Speaker, I must say how pleased I am to be able to participate in this debate and, of course, to support the government's actions and not to support what I think is a very facetious and silly resolution the honourable member has introduced.

I want to say, as a member of this Legislature for some 16 years and as a member of the Ontario cabinet for some 11 years as well as one who has travelled this province from Windsor to Ottawa to Kenora, that I feel very qualified to speak in support of the government's actions.

Not only do I support the government's actions, but I noticed there were no northern Ontario members speaking in support of the member's resolution. I have to remind the member that my colleague the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) has said quietly on occasion that it is time the government should buy an executive jet aircraft. In fact, it was the former member for Cochrane South who stated publicly in Quebec City that we should have a jet aircraft. Those members are on the record as being in support.

I did a rough calculation of the number of miles that I travel in a year in the course of carrying out my responsibilities throughout this province. It added up to roughly 125,000 miles annually, and of course this takes me to many parts of northern Ontario and southern Ontario.

If I multiply that by 11 years in cabinet, it comes out to 1,375,000 miles. Taking that one step further, that is 55 times around the equator. So I have to say that I am an authority on the use of government aircraft.

I have to admit that not all these flights are made on government aircraft, because I do use commercial aircraft very extensively. The point I want to make is that I have the experience, the knowledge and certainly the background with which to speak with some authority on this matter. Those are my qualifications.

The resolution introduced by my colleague the member for St. Catharines certainly states the Liberal position. There is no question about that. It is fine, as he has said already, for the separatist government of the province of Quebec to have two jet aircraft so that its members can fly around and see how they can destroy this country.

It is fine for the federal Liberal government in Ottawa to have 12 jets—10 JetStars and two Challengers—to move across this country; it is all right for them. It is even fine for the province of British Columbia to have four jets.

But when it comes to Ontario, the banner province of this country, one of the largest provinces in this country, to have a properly equipped transportation system for the executive of this province, then no, they disagree.

I have to tell members, it is political grandstanding; that is all it is.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege. The minister has suggested that I said it was fine for all these other political jurisdictions to have these. If he listened to my speech carefully, he would recognize that I condemned all those other jurisdictions and suggested that this government could set a good example instead of following bad examples.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, the member comes from the same party as the famous Mitch Hepburn.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Members will recall the infamous Mitch Hepburn. They do not want to remember him. I know they do not want to remember him because he did not have any significance, but he was the Premier of this province from 1934 to 1942. There is nothing to remember Mitch Hepburn for, and I think members will agree with me on that point; there is no question about that.

4 p.m.

But they will recall that back in the 1930s when governments of that day had the use of

automobiles, it was a very controversial issue. Any public figure driving a publicly owned vehicle, such as those used by the present Liberal leader and the leader of the third party, did so under close public scrutiny. History books have probably recorded that. Any use that could be misinterpreted as being of a personal or private nature was immediately pounced on, just as the member for St. Catharines is trying to do today.

Like Mitch Hepburn, my friend is trying to suggest there is something wrong with transporting 29 ministers and government staff to all areas of the province as fast and efficiently as possible. His former leader, who is now enjoying the patronage fruits of labour in Ottawa, tried to suggest in this House that 100,000 acres of forest land would not be seeded because the government was buying a jet. That is the kind of silly point Dr. Smith used to make here on a regular basis.

The honourable member would even propose that a de Havilland Twin Otter or even a King Air is all the people of northern Ontario really need and should get. That is the political attitude and philosophy of the Liberal Party of Ontario. They do not care about us in northern Ontario and it is showing up in the polls.

The same thing happened in 1934. Mitch Hepburn ranted and raved in this House about what he would do with those government cars if he ever became Premier. Lo and behold, he did become Premier of Ontario and we all know what happened. He lined up all those big black Cadillacs and Buicks behind this very building and had a public auction sale. The same attitude is being presented to us today. We know what followed. As soon as the press reports died down, Mitch Hepburn was out there buying a whole fleet of new cars that he could use for his own cabinet ministers. Such hypocrisy!

Mr. Nixon: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I must caution the minister, and you as our presiding officer, that the minister should not allow himself to give information to the House which is definitely not factual. If the Premier had a car, that is one thing, but the other members of his cabinet, particularly people in the minister's category, bought and drove their own cars.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: It is all properly recorded in the history books and the honourable member knows that quite well. It is no use trying to defend Mitch Hepburn 40 years later because it will not work. It will not work on this particular issue either.

I recall vividly that 10 or 12 years ago in northern Ontario there was a definite feeling of

isolation and alienation towards Queen's Park and the Ontario government. There was even talk of establishing a northern Ontario political party and of seceding. There was dissatisfaction in northern Ontario, but that is all gone.

Mr. Stokes: He was a disenchanted Tory, by the way.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: There was even a young fellow from North Bay called Ed Deibel who was very active in trying to do something specific for northern Ontario.

Why is that all gone? Because the member for Brampton (Mr. Davis) became the Premier of this province. He took an active interest in the affairs of northern Ontario. He made it his personal business to visit northern Ontario on a regular basis. He turned the attitudes around, as has his cabinet since that time. I would venture to say not a week goes by when there are not three or four cabinet ministers of this government criss-crossing northern Ontario with their senior staff, listening to the people and delivering Ontario government programs.

Mr. Wrye: And cheques.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: And cheques, certainly.

Mr. Wrye: Especially at election time.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I have a long list of programs and policies that were designed and developed in northern Ontario because ministers of the day could get up there quickly in the case of disasters. Members will recall the disastrous flood at Field, where hundreds of homes were completely wiped out. People were left homeless. Who was the first person there from government?

The Deputy Speaker: Time.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: It was the Premier in an executive aircraft, landing on an airstrip that we could build. I could go on. I have six or eight other points I wanted to make with respect to the support—

The Deputy Speaker: Time.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: —of the government's decision to buy an executive jet. However, time is running out—

The Deputy Speaker: It ran out.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: —but I would encourage the members to not support this particular resolution and to put the Liberal Party back where it was some 40 years ago. With this kind of resolution coming from that side of the House, they will be in political limbo for another 40 years.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, let me just serve notice that I admire the respect the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier) accords the

chair when he has been told repeatedly that his time has expired. It is a very typical example of the response of the executive council to the direction of the chair in this Parliament during this session.

I listened with great interest to the very selective historical bypass of the Minister of Northern Affairs. Like the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) I will not bother the member for Kenora with a recitation of reality in that respect because I am not so sure it would be landing on very firm ground.

I simply want to commend my colleague the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley) for bringing this timely resolution forward. I certainly support the resolution unequivocally in all its direction. The member for Kenora reminds us of the great good works that various ministers of the crown and their parliamentary assistants undertake. I am not about to stand here and be lectured by the member for Kenora about the good works and the great travel of members of the government and everybody else over there who has some special perk do in the discharge of their normal responsibilities.

With respect to his former parliamentary assistant the member for Renfrew South (Mr. Yakabuski), the minister is but a piker when it comes to travelling around this province, if one is to read the sessional paper tabled every June.

Mr. Nixon: The member never leaves his car, night or day.

Mr. Conway: I am very impressed by the seriousness with which some honourable members opposite take their travelling responsibilities. In my time here as an opposition critic I have also been impressed to note that I have the responsibility, which is properly mine, to drive to Windsor and to perform the function that a member of a shadow cabinet has to participate in the public debate.

Mr. Nixon: In his own car and driving it himself.

Mr. Conway: Exactly; and I am quite prepared to stand and say that is as it should be. I find it very interesting the number of times that I do that to inquire of the parliamentary assistant who is there with me, "What kind of a drive did you have down here?" I remember on one specific occasion being told, "Oh, the private aircraft that brought me here was very pleasant indeed." I have to ask myself just what that speaks to in terms of government priorities.

Mr. Nixon: Twenty-five minutes in the air.

Mr. Conway: I drive home every Friday afternoon and the number of government vehicles that pass me on Highway 7—when I see the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Wise-

man) floating by me with the most luxurious state vehicle that I know of anywhere in the Dominion of Canada, I really think about the priorities of this government.

The member talks about history and he talks about the shame of this government's situation vis-à-vis other provinces. Let me just say that the Premier of that day that he has spoken to so directly also abolished the vice-regal splendour of Chorley Park and 42 years of Tory succession has not seen fit to replace that bit of extravagance. I am wondering if the Minister of Northern Affairs is telling us here today that we are going to have an announcement soon that a Rosedale mansion is going to be procured for the Lieutenant Governor. I know the people of Hudson would be delighted to know that is the response of this government to the troubled economic times in which we now find ourselves.

4:10 p.m.

The member for Kenora stands in this House today and enjoins us to talk about and think about history. It is the historical experience of this government that so appalls me with the thought that \$10.6 million of public money is being appropriated for the purchase of a new executive jet. It is not the history of the 1930s or the 1940s. It is the history of the cabinet the minister was so happily a part of in 1973 that I so well remember and that I would hold up to the people of this province as the best possible example of why it is he should not be allowed to indulge in this kind of extravagance.

It is the history of this government's example in 1973 when no less a personage than the chief of the government himself admitted in this chamber that, yes, in fact there had perhaps been an abuse of those privileges. How many times were the people of the province treated to examples of that? How many times did we read about the first minister flying off to Stowe, Vermont, and how many times did we read about the Minister of Health then or the Minister of Natural Resources and his deputy minister in Cuba with the use of government aircraft?

The Minister of Northern Affairs might well stand in this House and enjoin members to talk and think about history. I ask him and the people of his constituency to reflect not upon the history of the 1930s and 1940s but about the history of this government as far as its recent past is concerned. Let the people of Hudson make the judgement about the capacity of this government to use properly the aircraft which are there.

I agree with the member for St. Catharines that the executive council should have certain entitlements. They are entitled to certain things.

But I just want to say that I am not persuaded, nor am I impressed, with the use of aircraft by this government in the recent past. We do not need to look at Mitch Hepburn if we want to know how this government behaves when it has a fleet of executive aircraft at its disposal.

I want to say something else. Not long ago our caucus discussed the fact that the number of private members—and that is not something that too many people over there would understand because my colleague the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney) has produced a revised list of just how many private members there are out of the 70 Tories in this place. I think there are about five, most of whom are in the dog house for some reason or another, who could be considered as private members.

The member for Haldimand-Norfolk (Mr. G. I. Miller) tells me it is seven; seven of 70 who are, strictly speaking, private members. I intend to put a question on the Notice Paper to find out just how many people are in the position of the Minister without Portfolio, the member for Middlesex (Mr. Eaton), who is doing God knows what to earn his ministerial salary.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: More than you.

Mr. Conway: Well there she is, the dyspeptic daughter of Mars, the fulminating Minister of Education, whose contribution—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Disreputable I am not.

Mr. Conway: I believe I have the floor. I would happily engage the minister in a debate at another time. But despite the fulminations of the Minister of Education, who has never understood what it is to be a private member in this place, I want to say that when I hear and read of things like the London Free Press account of the Minister without Portfolio, who is paid an additional emolument, as I say, for God knows what, because no one, including the Premier, has stood up in this House and told us what in fact he is doing. He may be the minister of nothing. He is so proud to stand there in the London Free Press with the marvellous government limousine that he has at his disposal to run helter-skelter.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Your leader does.

Mr. Conway: Indeed my leader does. I want to know what is so terrible about that. But I say, there is a heck of a lot more wrong with a minister in charge of nothing running around this province at very considerable government expense with a limousine for the discharge of responsibilities that have not yet been made clear.

I hear the chief government whip has been announcing privately in the corridors of this

place that there is no way the government caucus is going to see to it that private members will have greater access to travel in the province.

Well he might stand there, the chief government whip with his magnificent, silver-coloured limousine to take him not only back and forth to Mississauga but shuffle him back and forth to the Sutton Place. For him to be running that million-dollar operation he has across the way which, God knows, ought to be investigated by a number of squads I can think of. I must say to the member for Mississauga East (Mr. Gregory) that he should stand here and tell us there is no way the opposition members are going to have an opportunity—

Mr. Watson: Tell us what we're missing. I want to know.

Mr. Conway: Well might the member for Chatham-Kent cavil. What would he know, and what would he care, parliamentary secretary to somebody as he no doubt is. This debate and this resolution speak to a continuing abuse of executive privilege by the Tory government. The members opposite ought to be defensive, embarrassed and ashamed, because they are sitting in the comfortable pew of executive privilege. This is a government that is insensitive and uncaring. It could not care less about the troubled economy and lifestyle that many people in Ontario are enjoying as a result of 40 years of Tory indifference and inaction.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, I agree with the member for St. Catharines that the purchase of the executive jet is a topic that should be discussed in this House. Of course, any expenditure is subject to scrutiny in the estimates, but an expenditure of this nature is not scrutinized before it is announced, and we are faced with a *fait accompli* when it comes to the estimates.

I do not believe the government would have made this kind of a purchase under minority government. But now that it has a majority, the government seems to feel it can do as it pleases with the taxpayers' money despite a continuation of huge and growing deficits. The Suncor deal is another example of this wanton waste of public money with very little justification and no opportunity for debate beforehand.

What this purchase symbolizes is that the government is aping big business in the waste of our resources through luxury expenditures for items such as jets. It is very hard to justify such expenditures on a cost-benefit basis. They are mainly a form of conspicuous consumption of the kind that Louis XIV indulged in. Such consumption is a waste of our resources that inevitably gets added to prices when it is made

by the private sector, and to taxes when it is made by governments. In this time of budgetary restraint there is absolutely no justification for expenditure on a jet that will seat only 12 people, will require a pilot to be on call 24 hours, and will land on only 27 out of our 137 airports in Ontario.

I am not alone in my objections to this expenditure. I sent out a question with my riding report last month asking my constituents, "Is the government's purchase of a \$10.6 million executive jet a wise way to spend the taxpayers' money?" Of the 236 replies received already, 200, or 85 per cent, gave a resounding no to this question. Only 12 said yes, and 24 were undecided. The comments of those replying are very enlightening, and the Premier should hear them. Unfortunately he is not here in the House to hear them, but I intend to read them for those who are listening to this important debate.

Here is a sampling of the replies: "The purchase is idiotic, ludicrous, absurd and asinine." "It must be nice to spend millions while others wonder how to pay the rent." "Some politicians get a high from spending taxpayers' money foolishly." "We need the jet like we need a hole in the head." "Tell Davis to hitchhike if he doesn't want to use regular transportation." "In terms of high unemployment and the even more revolting expenditure on Suncor, this is outrageous."

4:20 p.m.

A suggestion from one constituent is, "Split the money among all of us." Another one says: "Why does the government waste our hard-earned money? Would Davis buy this jet if he was paying for it himself?" Then a comment, "I object very strongly to such a ridiculous purchase, to say nothing of the upkeep." Another one is, "I am outraged by this purchase." Finally: "He must think money is coming out of our ears. We should get rid of the jet and the oil company." A last one made a plea: "Please do something about this flagrant waste of our money. Enough is enough." I think the only thing we can do is throw out the government opposite.

I find it particularly hard to accept this waste when I see the long waiting lists for hospital beds, for nursing home beds and for chronic care beds in this province. I find it hard to accept when I know a great many people who need subsidized day care, because they have to go out to work these days or because they choose to go out to work to exercise their equal rights, are not able to get the day care they need. This \$10.6 million would have bought at least 4,000 new subsidized day care spaces which is

what is needed in Metropolitan Toronto alone right now.

When social services and services to the elderly are being cut back, when post-secondary education fees are going up, when health care is not covering any new areas, it is time we looked at our expenditures much more carefully. The purchase of luxury jets is something that should be ruled out from the beginning.

I think the comments of my constituents indicate what the public thinks of this purchase and I heartily agree. I am glad we have had an opportunity to debate it, but I have little hope the government will change its ways. We may have to turn them out to get a change in the policies.

Mr. Kolyn: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to contribute to this debate. At first glance, the ballot item before us appears to deal with one specific issue, the Canadair Challenger jet. To me, however, there is more at stake here than a simple discussion of transportation equipment. What is really under discussion is the style of government that is being offered in Ontario. By style, I mean the kind of approach that is taken in solving basic problems, the extent of vision apparent in ongoing policies and the priority given to keeping in touch with the people of Ontario.

The member for St. Catharines implies by his motion that it is irresponsible for this government to buy a jet for the use of cabinet officers. I want to take a moment here to say this aircraft is not the Premier's jet, as some of the press has described it. It is the people's jet. It is the jet to be used by members of the government to speed them throughout the province, and indeed the continent, safely and efficiently. The Canadair Challenger can also be converted into an air ambulance, proving this aircraft is not just the Premier's jet.

In his motion, the member for St. Catharines says the \$10.6 million set aside for the purchase of the Canadair Challenger could have been better used to help the people of Ontario through the current economic difficulties.

All of us on this side of the House recognize the seriousness of the current economic slowdown, but we also put the current slowdown into perspective and perspective is very important in discussing current economic conditions. It is no use going around crying that the sky is falling in when unemployment rises. What is needed is the proper perspective that will result in action to help the needy, to create permanent private sector jobs and to get our economy and entrepreneurs moving again.

What can be done to get our economy moving again? Two things can be accomplished by the

provincial government to ensure the future holds permanent private sector jobs for today's unemployed. The first is to continue to press Ottawa for a coherent industrial strategy. We need protection to rebuild our all-important auto industry. I repeat, we need protection to rebuild our all-important auto industry. We need assurance that enterprise will be respected and that nuisance taxes are done away with. This we are doing.

Second, we must establish a framework of programs and opportunities within Ontario to allow our entrepreneurs to remain competitive. This we are doing within the Board of Industrial Leadership and development. The seven research and development centres announced for our province will go a long way to keeping native industry in step with world trends, encouraging innovation and helping create new jobs and training opportunities.

This we are doing because we know that what Ontario needs now are not Band-Aid solutions or temporary expedience. This is because this province's top business and financial minds tell us we are going to get out of the present downturn.

Let me refer the members to the *Globe and Mail's* Report on Business of January 25. On page 42 they will find an article looking at Ontario's economic performance, and in it they will find this prediction by Douglas Peters, an economist with the Toronto Dominion Bank.

Mr. Peters says, "We could have a strong growth in the third and fourth quarters..." of 1982. He says we could have strong economic growth during the summer and fall. This statement is supported by an economist with the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, Paul Kovaks, who predicts an improved export picture towards the end of the year. Then there is the comment of William Mackness, an economist with Pitfield Mackay Ross Ltd., who says we have probably seen the peak of our unemployment woes.

These are not the comments of committed partisans; these are the comments of people involved in our economic system, of people whose livelihood depends on their ability to master the intricacies of the market and interpret them for the benefit of their employers.

Their comments mean that during the last half of 1982 we can expect a continuation of the growth experienced during 1981; a growth that in 1981 put Ontario first in real increases in gross provincial product, a growth which resulted in the announcement of 453 new manufacturing projects in this province and a growth which resulted in 114,000 more Ontarians at work.

The member opposite talks about taxes. He

calls taxes in Ontario excessive. The word appears in his motion, "assist the people of Ontario who are confronted with the burden... of excessive taxation."

Ontario's tax burden reflects favourably with those of other provinces. Taxpayers in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, British Columbia and Quebec all share the same tax burden as we do here in Ontario. In Prince Edward Island and in Newfoundland the burden is higher. Fundamentally, our tax burden is about average in Canada and roughly reflects the situation in the United States. The figures, therefore, do not show that Ontarians are excessively taxed.

The member for St. Catharines talks about inflation. Let me say that this government's achievement in reducing its costs is a matter of record. We are fighting inflation by keeping government out of the lending market as much as possible. We are fighting inflation by encouraging new production and new enterprise. All this is a matter of record and has been discussed in this Legislature before.

4:30 p.m.

Basically, this motion suggests that the provincial government and the people of Ontario would be far better off if the Treasurer had the \$10.6 million in his pocket instead of spending it on buying the Canadair Challenger 600. The motion implies that this \$10.6 million, had it been kept instead of spent, could have had a profound impact on services in the province.

Let us see what effect \$10.6 million would have in the operation of government. Would it profoundly change our program in health care? The revised estimate for the Ministry of Health is \$5.7 billion; \$10.6 million represents one fifth of one per cent of that ministry's budget.

Would \$10.6 million profoundly change social services? The revised estimate for the Ministry of Community and Social Services is \$1.7 billion; the price of the jet equals one half of one per cent of that ministry's budget.

Would it profoundly change education? The revised estimate for that ministry is \$3 billion; \$10.6 million represents one third of one per cent here.

Looking at the expenses of running this province, looking at our \$20-billion budget, there is little of a lasting and permanent nature that \$10.6 million can do—that is, accepting that more money is the solution for our current challenges. In fact, looking at past estimates for the Provincial Secretary for Social Development, \$10.6 million could not even fund a summer youth employment program.

I believe that \$10.6 million of our money is far better spent on the Canadair Challenger 600.

This purchase is an investment in Canadian technology that provides the world with a practical example of what the Canadian aerospace industry can accomplish. The aircraft is accessible to every region of Ontario. Because of its speed, it can bring cabinet ministers into direct contact with the people.

The motion talks about suitable and economic means of travel. Has the member ever tried to get an aircraft out of Thunder Bay at 10:30 in the morning to meet an afternoon appointment in Ottawa? This is the schedule a cabinet minister must meet. Only a private jet can keep such a timetable.

Then the motion talks about costs. Let us look at the cost of maintaining an ageing air fleet, using inefficient gas piston engines. Let us look at the cost of buying replacement parts for older aircraft and at the relative cost of fuel for propeller aircraft and the Canadair Challenger.

My time has run out. I am sorry I cannot finish my speech at this time, but possibly I can enter the remainder of it into the record later.

The Deputy Speaker: I regret to advise the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk that he will have approximately three minutes, followed by a summation from the member for St. Catharines.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I must agree with the member for Lakeshore (Mr. Kolyn) that when one looks at this government's budget, \$10.6 million does not seem significant. The Minister of education (Miss Stephenson) spends more than that every day her ministry is in operation.

But I am concerned that the government and their spokesmen from the riding of Lakeshore and from the north have simply lost any understanding of the value of \$10.6 million. We have never even got close to a balanced budget since the Premier took office; we have not balanced the budget since John Robarts was in power. This is clearly an indication why it is time for a change in the government, since they have forgotten the value of \$1, let alone \$10.6 million.

I believe further that the Premier and his cabinet would give a good deal, maybe even part of their vaunted majority, if they could reverse the ridiculous decision they made approximately a year ago to buy this monstrosity, this \$10.6-million jet plane.

Members will notice that although the order was placed in August and it was indicated the plane would be delivered early in 1982, we still have not seen hide nor hair of it. It was sent to Texas so that its interior could be torn out, the blue plush installed and the gold-plated initials "WGD" embossed in the mirror behind the bar

or whatever. But still the plane has not come back, and I believe it will be many days before it finally touches down out there in Malton or on Toronto Island.

The last thing wanted by the Premier and his buddies, who should be sitting in the front row here but who as usual are ignoring private members' hour, is to have the picture of that plane on the front page of the Toronto Sun, the Toronto Star, the Brantford Expositor, the Paris Star and the Ayr News. That is the last thing they want, because the people simply will be disgusted at any government that could take a decision of this type when the pressures for the expenditures of public moneys on proper programs are so great.

Even as a last resort, the \$10.6 million could be used to reduce our overwhelming deficit. It takes close to \$8 million every day just to pay the interest on that deficit, and it is the kind of attitude expressed by the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier) and supported by the Minister of Education that has got us into the fiscal difficulties we are experiencing in Ontario today.

I strongly support the motion, and I bet every Tory on the front benches and the back benches would like to vote for it if they could stop the delivery of that plane and still not be embarrassed by another reversal of their policies. They should put aside that sensitivity, use their good sense and vote for the resolution, and I urge them so to do.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, we have heard some interesting comment from members of the Legislature, and we have had one cabinet minister and one member of the government party attempting to defend the indefensible this afternoon.

One has to wonder what the member for Lakeshore would hear from the workers who reside in his riding and work at de Havilland and whether they feel what he has said this afternoon would amount to a sellout of their interests. He would have to consult them.

I point out to members on the government side that if they were to take the dramatic step, in some ways a symbolic step, of announcing that they were prepared to sell this example of government extravagance, this vehicle for the comfort, convenience and luxury of the Premier, his cabinet ministers and senior officials, they would have the almost unanimous support of the people of the province. I can assure them that every member on this side of the House would be prepared to applaud that move and give full credit for taking that kind of step in these difficult economic times.

I implore all members of the Legislature, on

an independent basis, to support this common sense resolution.

AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

Mr. Cooke moved, seconded by Mr. McClellan, resolution 2:

That this House acknowledges the need in Ontario for an auto industry independent of foreign domination and that to achieve this goal, this House directs the government to take the necessary immediate steps to establish an Ontario automobile program that would seek to reduce Canada's import dependency on engines and parts, reduce the high levels of foreign ownership and rebuild the auto industry in Ontario. To that end the government should:

1. Establish an interdepartmental office of automotive policy that would co-ordinate the design and implementation of the Ontario automobile program;

2. Establish a short-term community adjustment fund that would provide assistance to laid-off and terminated workers and would assist currently affected communities to restructure their industrial base.

3. Obtain a significant presence in the auto parts sector through the creation of a reorganization of the auto parts industry in order to overcome the fragmentation of the industry, its technological obsolescence and the critical shortage of investment capital.

The crown corporation should:

1. Obtain, where necessary, equity positions in existing Canadian-owned auto parts companies;

2. Require the Canadianization of those foreign multinationals who now operate in Ontario or who establish plants in the future;

3. Enter into joint venture projects with major automobile companies;

4. Negotiate long-term purchasing agreements for Canadian-made parts with major international automobile companies who sell their products in Ontario;

5. Undertake, directly or indirectly, research and development into product development, process technology and whole vehicle technology;

6. Explore and develop new industrial linkages between the automobile sector and other sectors of the economy.

Further, this House directs the government to request that the government of Canada introduce content legislation that would achieve a goal of 100 per cent Canadian value added.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to be able to debate a resolution of substance in this Legislature, which seldom

happens on an afternoon during private members' hour.

Mr. Kerrio: That's being modest, isn't it?

Mr. Cooke: That is being modest, yes. I want to point out, as I am sure all members of the Legislature realize, that the auto industry is the hub of the manufacturing industry within this province. In 1976, 72 per cent of Ontario exports of manufactured goods came from the auto sector. Excluding autos from the proportion of Ontario exports, only 17 per cent of our products would be exported. In other words, the vast majority of our exports are auto-related as well.

4:40 p.m.

One in six Ontarians is employed in auto-related activities. Auto assembly and parts industries account for one ninth of the gross provincial product. Auto assembly and parts account for 12 per cent of wages and salaries in this province. There are more than 4,000 vehicle dealers in Ontario, in cities such as Windsor, Chatham, St. Thomas, London, Oakville, Oshawa and St. Catharines, who are all heavily dependent on the auto industry.

Auto parts comprise the second largest trade deficit item, after machinery, in Canada's overall problem with deficits in manufactured goods. In Ontario, the automobile industry has been in a state of crisis off and on since well before the introduction of the auto pact in 1965. The auto pact, as the members of the Legislature will realize, was supposed to provide a balance with the United States in the North American market.

Until the auto pact was introduced, we were suffering from a significant deficit in auto parts and in the auto industry overall. We are still suffering that deficit and, in fact, it has increased significantly. The characteristics of the auto industry in Canada and specifically in Ontario, since the vast majority of that industry resides in this province, are such that we rely heavily on assembly. We have virtually no research and development. Our emphasis is on unskilled workers, and we have not only an extremely large trade deficit with the Japanese, as seems to be the focus these days, but also an overall trade deficit in the North American market as well.

Canada only got its fair share of investment under the auto pact for a few years after signing the auto pact. The reason was that the federal government had signed letters of understanding with the Big Three auto makers. In the early years after the signing of the auto pact, average investment in Canada was 7.5 per cent of the North American investment. Two or three years

after the signing of the auto pact, investment dropped off to five per cent.

From the time the auto pact was signed until, I believe, 1978, all investment made in Canada by the Big Three was covered by the differential in the price they charged for the cars they sold in Canada in comparison with the same cars when sold in the United States.

Our market share of North American sales since 1965 has increased from 6.8 per cent to about 10 per cent. Again, I emphasize that with the exception of two or three years after the signing of the auto pact, our average investment has been around five per cent of all North American investment, or about half of what we should have got had the principles of the auto pact been adhered to.

It is not really surprising that we have not received our fair share when one looks at the problem of ownership of the auto industry in North America and specifically in Canada. I want to refer to the Gray report on the ownership of our economy and some of the points it made in its report about 10 years ago.

1. Canadian branch plants imported one third of their requirements, and the imports tended to come from their home country. That is certainly true of the auto sector.

2. Foreign-controlled companies were more import-oriented than Canadian-controlled companies.

3. Imports were high in those sectors where foreign control was highest.

I think those findings from the Gray report of 10 years ago point clearly and specifically at the problems we have in the automobile sector, which by and large is owned by Americans.

A recently released Statistics Canada report stated the following:

"Based on a study covering 90 per cent of all Canadian imports for 1978, which accounted for \$43.7 billion worth of imports into Canada, it showed that foreign-controlled firms accounted for 72 per cent of those imports. The United States controlled firms accounted for 80 per cent of the total foreign-controlled portion of those imports.

What I am pointing to is a basic structural problem that exists in the auto industry which has resulted in large imbalances in the types of workers who work in the auto industry, our reliance on unskilled workers and our extremely high and growing deficit in auto parts.

Even with this overwhelming evidence, the new Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. Walker) has indicated that he favours more emphasis on foreign investment and that he favours, as was stated in the throne speech, streamlining of the Foreign Investment Review Agency. I will

get into more of that later on. I will quote the Minister of Industry and Trade, who states very clearly that he cannot understand why FIRA should have anything at all to do with new foreign investment in this country. He and the Premier (Mr. Davis) demand a weakening, or as they call it a streamlining, of FIRA.

This government's reliance on foreign investment and branch plants deepens the structural problems and will increase and continue to force the growth of auto parts imports and the auto parts deficit. The government's lack of an overall strategy and policy for auto parts is putting us in a position of losing the major manufacturing industry we have in this province. This government cannot claim it is not aware of the problems, because it issued a Treasury study report that very clearly outlined the problems.

I want to quote from parts of that report. On page 59 of the Treasury study report, a chart shows that in 1975 our percentage of US auto parts imports—for example, in gasoline engines—was 88.3 per cent; today we are down to 64.9 per cent. In engine parts, we used to fulfil 41.2 per cent of US imports; we are down to 39 per cent. In bodies and chassis, we used to fulfil 51.7 per cent; now we are down to 24.4 per cent.

On page 61 of the report it notes that one of the ironies of the Canadian situation, given the multilateral nature of our side of the auto pact, is that General Motors can bring engines into Canada from Brazil, Ford from Mexico and Chrysler from Japan, without paying duty. Therefore, there is no penalty in the Canadian market for their decision to shift critical engine capacity out of Ontario.

On page 63, the study report states:

"Between 1976 and 1979, Japanese parts exports increased by 102 per cent or at an annual average rate of 23.5 per cent, while over the same period Canadian parts exports increased by only 52 per cent or an average of 13.9 per cent a year.

"Japan is playing an increasingly important role in supplying components to the United States. Between 1976 and 1979, Japanese exports to the US increased by 113 per cent, while Canadian imports rose by 9.2 per cent for the same period. It is becoming increasingly clear the Japanese are displacing Canadian parts producers as leading supplier of major components for automotive production in the United States."

Not only are we losing the auto parts market that exists in Canada and Ontario, but we are losing the American market as well.

On page 65 of this report, it states:

"In recent years, Canada has been capturing a

declining share of the US parts market. Between 1970 and 1979, exports of Canadian auto parts into the United States increased by \$1.3 billion to \$4.3 billion or 226 per cent, while total US imports increased by 427 per cent to \$10 billion over the same period.

"In 1970, Canada accounted for 70 per cent of all US imports, West Germany for 8.5 per cent, Japan for 8.5 per cent and other countries for 13 per cent. By 1979, this picture had changed radically, with Canada accounting for only 43 per cent, West Germany for nine per cent, Japan up to 29 per cent and others up to 21 per cent. If recent trends continue, Japan could displace Canada as the single most important supplier of automotive parts to the United States in the very near future."

This document suggested there could be a 30 to 50 per cent reduction in the work force in the automotive sector in Ontario. The Treasurer's (Mr. F. S. Miller) response in committee and in the Legislature has been that this was the worst-case scenario, that it was very unlikely this would happen and that the report did not have the provincial government's stamp of approval.

But the reality of the situation is that this is exactly what has happened. The worst-case scenario has happened and we have lost thousands of jobs, contrary to what the Minister of Industry and Trade said last week. The government's response has simply been to give Volkswagen a \$10-million grant, to give a few Ontario Development Corp. grants to some of the parts producers, to give Ford \$28 million and to give Chrysler \$10 million in loan guarantees for a research centre—and we do not know what is happening to that right now.

4:50 p.m.

There is no overall strategy by this government. The reason this study by Treasury was conducted was to form the basis of a policy for this government on auto, and we still have no substantial response, no overall strategy to get the auto industry back into a position of strength and to get jobs created in this province.

Central to any government policy must be the principle that we cannot allow the large multinational corporations to control the auto industry and make the economic decisions for this province. That has to be a principle this government is willing to adopt.

Government has the right and the obligation to protect the people and their communities, such as Chatham where the unemployment rate is well over 20 per cent and is in a state of crisis. Many people in that small community are losing their homes, and many others are moving out of

the community as well. In Kitchener the unemployment rate in the auto industry is 45 per cent. In my own home-town community there is unemployment and depression because of the problems in the auto industry. The government has not responded in any way whatsoever.

Let me point out some of the human and economic costs that have resulted from unemployment in Windsor. Unemployment insurance costs per year are running at nearly \$200 million just for Windsor and surrounding communities. Welfare costs are going to be \$17 million in the city of Windsor alone, and literally hundreds of people have lost their homes already. The same kinds of statistics can apply to communities like Oshawa, and I am sure my colleague the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) will be speaking about that later.

There are things this government can and should be doing. The Canadian content question is central to any policy and any kinds of government policies that will turn this industry around. In 1964, Canadian cars had 58 per cent Canadian content. In 1981, it is running at around 50 per cent for Chrysler, 50 per cent for Ford and about 60 per cent for General Motors. Canada's share of North American employment in 1981 was 8.6 per cent, down from 9.3 per cent, and employment dropped by 30.7 per cent to 85,600.

In the United States, employment has declined 20.5 per cent, which is a significant number, but the 30.7 per cent we have lost in jobs in Ontario points to the fact that the former Minister of Industry and Tourism (Mr. Grossman) and the present Minister of Industry and Trade are totally wrong when they say the United States is suffering more than we are in the auto sector. The fact is that we have lost more jobs, and the chances of many of those jobs ever coming back into place are very unlikely.

Communities such as St. Thomas, St. Catharines and the others I have mentioned simply cannot be allowed to suffer any longer. This government has an obligation to act. The resolution I have put before the Legislature for debate calls for a number of initiatives, most of which, with the exception of one item, this government can act upon on its own.

First, we are calling for the establishment of a community adjustment fund of \$200 million. This community adjustment fund would give direct payments to individuals who are suffering from long-term unemployment. It would assist the social services that have been overwhelmed with the case loads that have increased because of the very serious human problems that result from high unemployment. The fund would also

assist the communities in restructuring their economies, diversifying and creating jobs to avoid the ups and downs that many of the one-industry towns in southern Ontario face.

Long-run government policy must come to grips with the structural problems that exist. We must set up in this province an interdepartmental office of automotive policy. No longer can we have the Treasury carrying out a study that the Ministry of Industry and Trade is not aware of. No longer can we have grants coming from the ODC and grants coming from Treasury with no overall connection and strategy as to what the government really wants to be accomplished. One central department must keep up on the trends and the problems so that the minister and the cabinet are always aware of the real layoff figures.

Let me point to some of the problems. Last week, when we had an emergency debate on the auto industry, the Ministry of Industry and Trade indicated there were 5,000 layoffs. The fact of the matter is that there are closer to 30,000 people on layoff, many of whom have completely gone off the unemployment insurance rolls and many of whom have given up looking for work. None the less, those are jobs lost to this economy and to the communities where they once worked.

We must establish a crown corporation in the auto sector, not just on philosophical grounds but because it makes sense. It makes sense, because Canadian auto parts firms can expand. In numbers there are more Canadian firms than American firms, but in total employment the American multinational firms represent 65 per cent of the jobs. Those Canadian firms can expand, but they need capital to work with and they need the up-to-date technology. If they do not have the capital, they certainly could not borrow on the market today because of the federal policy of high interest rates. None the less, the Canadian firms offer a potential for expansion, a potential to meet the market that would exist if we had content legislation at the federal level.

As a practical first venture, as we in this party have long advocated, this crown corporation could get into diesel engine production at the Chrysler engine plant, which has stood empty for a couple of years. Massey-Ferguson and their subsidiary Perkins have the technology; Chrysler has the empty plant and there is a demand for diesel engines in this province.

Why this is taking such a long time to negotiate, heaven only knows, but it is our very strong belief that to get that plant on stream, there must be direct investment by government and there must be ownership by the government

because of the shaky nature of both Massey-Ferguson and Chrysler and because it will take substantial amounts of government investment to get the show on the road.

Mr. Speaker: The honourable member has two minutes.

Mr. Cooke: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further, the crown corporation has to get into research and development in a serious way, again to assist the Canadian firms in growth and technology and to meet the competition head on. The capital that would be provided through this fund could also work to the multinationals' benefit, because it could be made available to them but on an equity basis, which would also go some way to meeting the demands and the needs for a Canadianization plan in the auto parts sector.

We are talking about a budget for Autocan of approximately \$300 million. That may seem like a lot of money but, to go back to the figures that I talked about earlier, the costs of unemployment in cities such as Windsor, Oshawa and St. Thomas simply must be put into creating jobs instead of keeping people at home when they want to work and want to be productive in our province.

Finally, I do not think that anyone in this Legislature can overemphasize the importance of the auto industry to this province. We simply have to have a provincial government that is willing to act to protect the interests of this province, its economy and its people. We cannot allow our number one, our most important manufacturing industry to disappear, as is happening right now, because of the lack of leadership of this government and because of the lack of leadership at the federal level.

Content legislation is the only aspect of our auto program that is not within the jurisdiction of this province. In conclusion, I simply say that this province has an awful lot it can do to push the federal government to content legislation.

Mr. Speaker: The honourable member's time has expired.

Mr. Cooke: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me conclude by saying the Premier has been very quiet on the problem and the proposal of content legislation, and it is essential that he speak for the interests of this province and speak loudly and clearly.

Mr. Stevenson: Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity this afternoon to respond to the honourable member's resolution. There is no doubt about the significance of the auto industry to our economic prosperity. To paraphrase a quote that many of us have heard in one form or

another, "What is good for North American cars is good for North America."

5 p.m.

This statement signifies two things. First of all, it is the significance of the automotive industry to the whole North American economy and, second, it is the North American nature, the continental nature of the cars that are produced in North America.

I want to say at the outset that our government is greatly concerned about the wellbeing of this important sector of our economy. I do not believe, however, in the recommendation made by the member opposite that the solution for the Canadian auto industry is necessarily Canadianization. There is no substantiation that foreign-owned firms have been, in general, poor corporate citizens. Similarly, there is no guarantee that Canadianization could change the fundamental market condition or improve productivity.

Mr. Laughren: Of course there is. He is out of order.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member for Nickel Belt will please remain quiet. We listened to you, so give the member for Durham-York a chance.

Mr. Stevenson: The philosophy of this government remains that private ownership represents the best long-term mechanism to secure investment and employment. There is no evidence that a crown corporation could be any more effective than the private sector during this period of depressed sales.

The damage to US-Canada relations from pursuing a policy of Canadianization of the auto sector would be disastrous. Considering that approximately 80 per cent of our output is sold in the United States, it would be suicidal to damage relations deliberately. In fact, Canada should be co-operating more with the United States to strengthen the entire North American industry to our joint advantage.

Our policy regarding the auto industry has been stated over and over again, and has been stated quite clearly, I believe, by the Premier (Mr. Davis) on many occasions. We have called for an increase in Canadian value added in world production to a level equal to 85 per cent of Canadian sales. This same plea has been echoed by the United Auto Workers, the auto parts manufacturers and the automotive manufacturers. We are also asking for a balanced corporate trade on a five-year average basis for the North American auto makers, the establishment of a Canadian purchasing function by the vehicle manufacturers, as well as a signifi-

cant increase in research and development activity within Canada.

Our government is pursuing these goals actively but there is only so much we can do. The Ontario government does not design, build or sell automobiles. We cannot negotiate trade agreements. We cannot write industrial contract settlements.

We are living in difficult times. The US, our largest market, is in the midst of a major recession. We cannot pull the US out of its recession. I am convinced, however, that the Canadian auto industry will recover but it will depend largely on the speed of economic recovery in the United States.

Before we tackle the immediate problems facing our auto sector, all parties concerned — and this includes government, industry and labour — must be prepared to take action and when necessary make concessions.

Mr. MacEachen's pursuit of American interest rates has undermined the recovery of our auto sector. The time has come for Ottawa to demonstrate leadership. April 1 was the expiry date of the restraint arrangement on automobiles with Japan. The federal government must take action to ensure that the Japanese industry is prepared to accept Canadian content requirements on a par with all other vehicle manufacturers selling in the Canadian market.

As of today, Japanese cars have captured almost 30 per cent of the Canadian market, with vehicles containing less than one half of one per cent Canadian content. By comparison, the US and Japan have announced an agreement that will keep the Japanese share of the US market between 17 and 18 per cent in 1982 and beyond. Certainly there are other agreements, which possibly my colleague will discuss later, relating to France, Italy, Australia and so on, and there are certainly moves that can be made.

With unemployment in the auto industry at 38 per cent, the federal government must not be reluctant to take drastic action. Under article 19 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, there is provision for the Canadian government to take emergency steps to control the domestic market.

The problem in the auto industry is low productivity. In 1981, vehicle production was 807,000 units, the lowest since 1967. This reduced production level is directly responsible for major layoffs. Our government recognizes these large-scale layoffs mean severe social and economic hardship, not only for those directly involved but also for many others in communities and regions affected. Plainly and simply, our auto industry is unable to compete internationally. The financial strength of the industry is

being weakened by poor sales, along with the need to make massive investments in new products and production processes.

The North American vehicle production system has priced and paid itself out of the marketplace. Wages and benefits for executives and workers in the industry are substantially more in North America than they are for our competitors in Europe and Japan. But it is not just the wage differential that significantly helps the Japanese. Their production system is also leaner. The Japanese now require only 80 hours to design, assemble and market a car, while North Americans require 144 hours to do the same job. We cannot ignore the fact that the cost of a comparable Japanese car is \$1,200 to \$1,600 less than a North American model.

The measures advocated by our government in the throne speech are necessary as a first step in aiding the auto industry. Volkswagen-type agreements must be pursued. Future negotiations with foreign manufacturers must guarantee 85 per cent Canadian content. For the North American auto industry to become competitive, both production and production processes must become innovative.

The Canadian auto industry has been much slower in incorporating new technologies such as microelectronics and robotics into its production lines. The Japanese, on the other hand, recognized the significance of these developments years ago and have used them in the development of their automobile industry. As a result, they have one of the most highly automated systems in the world. It has certainly made a significant contribution to their ability to capture their share of the world market.

The greatest obstacle to the adoption of new technologies is the fear of massive unemployment. However, the reality of the situation is that the consequences will be greater if we do not become more competitive. Far from destroying jobs, rapid technological advance has generally been accompanied by high rates of job creation. Despite Japan's extensive use of automation, its unemployment level in 1980 was only 2.1 per cent.

There is no doubt the auto sector needs a comprehensive strategy to pull itself out of its present slump. Leadership at the federal level is needed quickly to meet the needs of the ailing auto sector. First, Ottawa can begin by lowering its interest rates; second, Ottawa must negotiate a favourable import agreement with Japan, and third, Ottawa must work closely with the United States to create a strong North American policy to increase the North American share in the international market.

At last February's economic conference, our

Premier (Mr. Davis) advocated a bold program for the auto sector. He asked for co-operation in the implementation of a national automotive parts program which would allow this critical industry to restructure to meet its competition. We are pushing the federal government to take action.

At the provincial level, we are prepared to assist the auto industry in taking advantage of the opportunities opening up in the 1980s. The \$25 million auto parts technology centre is an example of this.

5:10 p.m.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, I join the debate on this very important matter on a date that is rather ironic, because it also is the day the March unemployment figures came out for the country and for each city in Ontario. Unlike last month, in which Statistics Canada dreamed up an unemployment rate of 7.6 per cent for the city of Windsor, this month we got back to some reality with an unemployment rate of 14.6 per cent—the largest for any community in Ontario. I hope the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) will note this. That is still below the real unemployment rate. The Canada employment centre there reports that is 17 per cent, representing some 21,000 people.

To find the number two city for unemployment I believe one would only have to go as far as St. Catharines. That city had an unemployment rate for March of 11.7 per cent. It goes to show just how important the auto industry is to those two communities and how important the downturn in the industry has become in terms of unemployment.

I want, at the outset, to congratulate the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. Cooke). I do not agree with him on a lot of things but I do want to congratulate him for coming here with a resolution that is of substance and that, most important, talks about what this province can do.

The member for Durham-York (Mr. Stevenson) is on his way out the door and I am sure the next speaker for the government will also want to address some of these matters. But I want to say just how concerned I am that this government does not yet realize it too has a role to play in the development of the automotive industry—and particularly the auto parts industry—in the 1980s.

I am so sick and tired of hearing how it is all Ottawa's fault and it is all Ottawa's doing and Ottawa has the only responsibility. This government has the primary responsibility in developing the automotive industry in this decade

As the member for Windsor-Riverside point-

ed out, only one aspect of the resolution—the last two and a half lines of the resolution, which must run some 15 to 20 lines—is in the purview of the federal government. Yet we heard the member for Durham-York reiterating that it is all Ottawa's fault.

If the Premier is so concerned about getting a significant increase in research and development, why does he not call in the presidents of the three Canadian companies—the three Canadian presidents of the multinationals—and tell them so in no uncertain terms? Why does he not try a little jawboning for a change? Is he so certain of his own impotence in discussing these matters that he is afraid to call in the Canadian presidents and talk tough to them? He is always talking tough in Ottawa. He could talk tough once in a while here in Queen's Park as well.

I think, however, the member for Durham-York—and perhaps this government as a whole—missed the point. I never had a sense of the importance of Canadianizing the industry in his whole speech. I suppose that is not surprising, given what has been happening recently in terms of White Industries. I do not think this government yet realizes the development of an independent Canadian-owned auto parts industry is the best way we can ensure the long-term job prospects in this province.

I support the general thrust of this resolution, and if the members opposite will allow it to come to a vote I will vote for it. The general thrust is contained right at the outset where it says there is a need for an auto industry in this province that is independent of foreign domination and specifically proposes programs to change the foreign domination of the parts industry. There is no doubt about it. The imbalance in the industry on the parts side must end.

There are many other specifics in this resolution I can support. I want to mention just one, because it is a very expensive part of the resolution in terms of funding, and that is the establishment of community adjustment funds both for workers and for the communities in which they live. I hope the member for Windsor-Riverside realizes that the establishment of such funds may have to be not just for the automotive industry, but also for the development of new industries, in those areas where the automotive industry simply cannot provide jobs any longer.

I want him to understand, and I think every member in this House must understand, that, especially in terms of assembly, the automotive industry is to a great extent a sunset industry. The automation of the industry is already well under way in Japan, and it will have to begin here sooner rather than later for us to be cost

competitive. With respect to my friend the member for Durham-York, he did talk about the need for automation within the industry.

That makes the development and the revitalization of the parts industry that much more important, because, I want to make it very plain, I do not believe we are going to have the jobs on the assembly side in 1990 that we have today—it just cannot happen—or we are going to be totally noncompetitive in terms of the world market.

When I look at a city like my own, when I look at a community like Windsor, with a Chrysler truck plant, Chrysler automotive assembly plant, perhaps even with a diesel engine plant and the assembly line production involved in engine plants, we are simply going to be losing jobs. I think of what happened in the city of Oshawa some 10 days ago, where the second shift of the General Motors plant was laid off. I point it out because of the number of jobs involved in that shift, some 1,300, and that is the second shift alone.

Automotive assembly has been very labour intensive through the 1960s and 1970s and to the extent that it has provided raw jobs it has served us well. But that era is ending, and I think we must be preparing immediately for our leap into the 1990s and into the year 2000.

I do have some concerns about the resolution. All of a sudden it makes a quantum leap from the need to Canadianize the industry to the need for a crown corporation. It is a leap, unfortunately, that my friends on the left make very often; in fact, with amazing regularity. I find it interesting that they are latter-day opponents of Suncor.

One of these days I am going to get some comment from my friend the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel), who spoke only in terms of believing in 51 per cent ownership of Suncor when it was first announced and never worried about whether the first 25 per cent was a good business deal. Only after it became obvious through our own questioning that it was a bad business deal, quite regularly—

Mr. McClellan: Do you remember talking to your friend Gray?

Mr. Wrye: That is correct. I want to suggest that the whole matter of a crown corporation suggests—

Mr. Martel: What about Petrocan? Forced into it as usual.

Mr. Wrye: I am quite well aware of Petrocan, but in this area I am not sure it suggests a need that we need to meet. I would suggest to my friend from Sudbury East and my friends to the

left, I am not sure this one area of the resolution is exactly necessary.

I do want to suggest, because I have only a few seconds left, that the problem we face today is a problem of a government that has written a speech offering not one job and not one program for the development of the parts industry. It talks about the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development, that is, a plant it is going to make eventually. What about the modernizing of the plants that are there already? There is nothing for that in this program.

5:20 p.m.

There is no understanding that we need to be ready and need to be ready quickly for a shift into parts production, the very shift the Premier (Mr. Davis) himself suggested in the throne speech and in his resolutions to Ottawa. I suggest if we get 85 per cent Canadian content tomorrow, the parts industry in this province will not be in fit shape to meet those content regulations. It is up to this government to show us the way.

Mr. Breaugh: Mr. Speaker, I want to speak in support of the resolution before the House this afternoon. It is important that this Legislature has a concept in mind when it talks about revitalizing, rebuilding and regaining our share of the automotive sector around the world.

Two or three things need to be said before we get into this. One is that so far, as other members have indicated, the automotive business in Canada has been exclusively private. In part, that is one of the problems we ran into. Governments such as the government of Ontario which are heavily dependent on the auto industry for economic growth and development played no role at all for a long period of time. Only when things went bad did they even begin to investigate what parts of the automotive industry were in trouble. Why were we in trouble? What should the federal government do?

It is only in recent times we have even seen ministers of the crown talking about the difficulties that are there. What about content? What about quota legislation? What about the parts sector and the problems that are there?

For some period of time we have left it alone in the faint hope that the private sector would somehow bring it back and that the problems would be overcome. In some measure there are real limits on what the private sector can do. Much of the auto industry is about mythology. The myth that Canadians cannot build a decent car is out there. It now has to be fought.

I find it interesting that the car I have driven for three years came off the same assembly line in exactly the same plant, made by the same

workers, as the ones that people in Iraq thought did not work well. I have had my vehicle for three years and so far I have replaced one tail-light bulb. It seems to me that is not bad quality.

There is a problem in pricing in the private sector where the Big Three auto makers maintain they want the liberty to overprice their units and they are getting hammered in the showrooms from one end of the country to the other by offshore imports that go directly at their weakest point, the pricing of their vehicles.

I remember when I bought my first car that \$10,000 would have got the best Cadillac going, with a live-in maid. These days \$10,000 will buy a mid-size Chevrolet. That is the problem—

Mr. Martel: Without the maid.

Mr. Breaugh: Without the maid.

Mr. Andrewes: How could a Socialist buy a car like that?

Interjections.

Mr. Breaugh: That is the problem in the private sector. Let me move on before we get too much barracking on this.

Let me move to the resolution itself, because it talks about what every other jurisdiction in the world has come to realize: that government must play a role in something as important to our economy as the auto industry.

I find it strange there is a little barracking on the other side about government intervention and all that. I find it perverse, frankly, that the only nationalized car industry in this country is in Brampton and the nation which is involved in that project is the Socialist government of France.

Mr. Kolyn: It was done by De Gaulle.

Mr. Breaugh: Somehow the honourable member is proud that De Gaulle did that. I would be much happier if the nationalized involvement in the auto industry were done by the government of Canada, or at least the government of Ontario.

This resolution speaks to what this government could do and what it must do. There is no question in the parts sector that they have come to a realization that small Canadian parts companies have great difficulty competing with worldwide operations.

In my town we build a nice little truck. It has a four-cylinder motor that is made in Japan. Why can that four-cylinder motor not be made here in Ontario? Why can the government of Ontario not do the co-ordination, assist with research and development and put together the kind of policy, program and effective intervention that is proposed in this resolution?

The secrets have been investigated for a lengthy period of time and the problems have been unfolding for a lengthy period of time. We have come to some hard realizations: we do not have a Canadian car industry; there is no such thing as a Canadian automotive assembly plant; we have branches of American corporations. In my town, in Oakville and in Windsor, even simple maintenance items around the plant are approved elsewhere, so there is no Canadian car. There are branches of multinational corporations functioning here.

Make no mistake about it. When they establish their priorities about which plants will take layoffs, which plants will shut down, it is the Canadian sector of that—and in the automotive world when you talk about the Canadian sector you are really talking about Ontario—that takes the hits first and takes the hits hardest.

When we look at the auto parts plants, and there are many of them in my area that just a few years ago were very active, thriving companies, we see what happens when they don't retool. We see what happens when they don't do redevelopment of their product lines and when they don't get the technology in place. They die.

Unfortunately, in my area we now have many empty buildings that were once very active parts producers for the auto industry. There is a need for that co-ordination of government policy, for research and development, for technology in the field and for marketing. What I find particularly strange is that in every other jurisdiction the first order of business is the intervention by the government to see that there is a sensible and rational development of that segment of the industry.

In Mexico, where General Motors has now gone to build new harness plants for its vehicles, the government intervenes right away and says: "That's fine. We like to have your development here but this is what we want. This is the kind of content legislation we want. This is the kind of work program we want." In other jurisdictions, governments intervene at the beginning of the process to co-ordinate, to develop and to market.

That is the reality of the world. It is all very well to go around and hand out money to Volkswagen or to Chrysler or to Ford at the end of a process when the corporation is in trouble and when we are unsure of the results. That is all well and good, but we will never get anywhere unless the government gets its act together as the Japanese have and as the European manufacturers have.

The government must intervene and have an orderly and rational supply system. They must regularly bring in innovative processes and

manufactured products that have a market and then go to work at making that market happen. That is the role of the government in all of this and that is precisely what is proposed in this resolution.

The resolution is unique in many aspects and one of the reasons I am so fond of it is that it deals with things which the government of Ontario could do, not things which are the responsibility of somebody else in some other jurisdiction. It deals with actions that those people who are sitting on the front benches over there—those few who are there—and their cabinet could take.

We are talking about a major part of Ontario's economy and it is, frankly, useless to harangue the federal Liberals for what they have not done. We all know that, but the fact remains that they cannot afford to let that be their sole offensive any more. They now have to participate in the process and if they do not, they are just as guilty by their inactivity as are the federal Liberals.

Another aspect of it I like is that to put a price tag on a program like this is sometimes a little difficult but to put a price tag on what is proposed in this resolution comes in at just under half of what they spent, as a government, to buy 25 per cent of an American oil company. If they can do that, whatever defence they might have for that purchase of Suncor shares, however rational that might have been, doesn't the Canadian automotive industry, doesn't the Ontario automotive industry deserve at least half of what they did for them? It seems to me that is not a radical proposal. It seems to me that is a logical proposal.

This resolution talks about co-ordinating the activities of a government. It talks about seeing that the economy does not go down the drain. It talks about monitoring it carefully and putting the parts together which make for a successful Canadian parts industry, and which maybe one of these days will make for a successful Canadian vehicle.

As we look at the worldwide experience of governments intervening—and governments all over the world are having problems with this—there is that great tendency just to patch it up. I think what this resolution calls for is necessary now. I don't care whether you call yourself a Socialist or a free enterpriser, in hard-nosed business terms this government will now have to move to intervene in the automotive section of our economy for their own survival. Sooner or later, they will. It is simply a question of how many workers will pay the price for their foot dragging in this whole exercise.

One of these days they will be trotting out this

resolution in their own form and purporting to do something for the automotive sector and the workers. We are asking the government to look at this resolution now and take some action before further disaster hits the most important segment of our economy.

5:30 p.m.

Mr. Cousens: The honourable members opposite have given us an opportunity to speak again on a subject we all have a great deal of concern about. Like those members, we on this side are genuinely concerned about the needs of the automotive market.

We know that one in four workers is employed within the automotive sector. We know the importance of having a Canadian market and the importance of the Ontario government taking an active part in resolving some of the problems that exist in that market today. We also know that the federal government has a responsibility.

I compliment the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. Cooke) for at least taking time to put this down on the Order Paper as his subject of interest. It is truly unfortunate that he does not have someone in the federal House to do some speaking where it would count on a matter that is a federal responsibility, at least in part. If only the Leader of the Opposition had stayed in his seat, the member could give him his motion and perhaps something could be done in Ottawa.

The members should understand that Ontario is part of a federation of provinces in a country known as Canada. The federal government has a certain responsibility for negotiating agreements with other countries. In negotiating those agreements, it has made one key agreement with the United States. This happens to be known as the Canada-United States automobile products agreement, commonly known as the auto pact.

Ontario did not negotiate that pact; it was negotiated through Ottawa. The kind of suggestions inherent to the proposal being presented to the House today are that this House—

Mr. Bradley: "Don't blame me; blame the feds."

Mr. Cousens: No, no. It comes down to whose responsibility it is to do what. In this matter, there is a definite federal responsibility. Ontario does not negotiate with the United States. So what we are talking about here is simply a matter of whose responsibility it is. I for one do not want to see Ontario step into a federal prerogative.

The member for Windsor-Riverside has proposed that a short-term community fund be

established to provide assistance to laid-off and terminated workers to help the affected communities restructure their industrial base.

Who does not care about that? Last week, it was April 1 when we spoke about the unemployed, laid-off auto workers, and there was not a fool in this House because every one of us was concerned about that very issue. Concern about laid-off employees is not something that is exclusive to the third party or the second party.

May I suggest that there would be some value if members understood what the federal government has started to do already. I am most surprised that the member for Windsor-Sandwich did not give some recognition to what the federal government has been doing through its industry and labour adjustment program. I am really surprised because it is an instance where the federal government is making an investment within the province and across the country.

This is part of what is happening. The media and other people pick up partial information, not the whole story, and they end up going away without understanding that governments are participating and trying to find a resolution.

In fact, through ILAP, certain communities in Ontario, such as Windsor and its neighbouring communities—and the mover of this motion and the speaker from the second party should know about it—Brantford, Brantford township and Chatham have been designated as labour adjustment areas where people who are laid off are going to be given special assistance because of depressed industries.

Because of the automobile slump, they are receiving significant assistance from the federal government; significant to the extent that the federal government has made a move. In Mr. Gray's recent announcement on January 31, he said he is increasing the industry and labour adjustment program to \$25 million in interest-free loans available to the auto parts industry over the next two years.

We see there are programs in place. People who are affected in a deleterious way by the automotive cutbacks and by the problems we have are at least being given some consideration by the federal government through wage subsidies, mobility grants, enhanced training programs, job creation programs, early retirement benefits, community based industrial adjustment programs.

There are times when we say to the federal government, "Do more." There is something the federal government could do and that has to do with the arrangements that are made between our country and another country. It has to do with the auto pact and there is little that a

provincial jurisdiction can do in the negotiation of such a pact.

I wish the members would put the responsibility where it really lies. That is not in Toronto, it is in Ottawa. Ontario comes in for a lot of criticism. Here again the member for Windsor-Riverside only gives part of the story. He talks about \$10 million being nothing or \$5 million just being a few crumbs or peanuts. He says there is no overall strategy by this government. What he is doing when he makes statements like that is hurting the credibility of his party.

Interjections.

Mr. Cousens: Oh, my, they would not want to know that. There is no use dealing with the facts. The claims that the former Minister of Industry and Tourism (Mr. Grossman) and the present Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. Walker) are totally wrong really lead me to believe that someone else is far more wrong not to have taken the time to consider what these ministers have been saying and trying to do. It is wrong to say there are no initiatives coming from this government, to stress the need to reorganize the automotive parts industry and, in doing so, indicate Ontario can do something. We know Ontario can do something.

I wish the honourable members would realize that through BILD there have already been initiatives.

Mr. Martel: Through what?

Mr. Cousens: Through BILD, the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development. The member for Sudbury East must realize by now that this program is working. If the problems that existed in the economy today were exclusive to Ontario, I venture to say we would be seeing significant results by now. The fact is the problems are of a world order; they are of the whole country and of the whole continent of North America.

On March 4, 1982, the Minister of Industry and Trade announced the establishment of the auto parts technology centre in the Niagara region by the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development; \$25 million. An important objective of this centre is to enhance the industry's long-term development. Maybe what we should do is put it in Sudbury and then we would have a few more smiles from the third party or some other place. The fact is, it is close to the market which needs it. The government is responding. For members to say that nothing is happening is to hurt their own credibility.

At the same time, Ontario is holding discussions with the federal government. We are doing everything we can, not only with the government but with labour and industry as well, to

negotiate among other things arrangements with the foreign automobile companies in Canada to increase the Canadian content in their products to a level of not less than 85 per cent.

I noticed that all members were here for the speech from the throne. At that time, on March 9, it was said that our government has a plan and it has a policy. We cannot do it alone but we are proceeding to implement that through negotiations, through discussion with our federal counterparts. The world is not run by just one or two people. It is a matter of working together in this matrix.

On March 1, the provincial Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) wrote to the Honourable Herb Gray. At that time he was trying to emphasize the need for a concerted effort by government, industry and labour to work together to aid in the recovery of the Canadian automotive industry.

5:40 p.m.

The motion before this House today would assume that only Ontario can resolve this by certain things we are going to do, by setting up a crown corporation and doing a few new tricks out of the same old bag. As we see it now, the Ontario government is doing a great deal to encourage and support the automotive industry. It is something we will continue to do, members can be sure.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, as an individual who represents a riding that is very much dependent on the automotive industry, I find a lot of merit in many of the things contained within this resolution. It does not mean I agree with it 100 per cent but I think the thrust the honourable member has made shows his concern for his particular community and the province.

As representatives, we received a telegram from Local 199 of the United Auto Workers addressing itself to this particular problem. I would like to read this into the record for members of the Legislature:

"The members of the GM unit of Local 199 UAW had a well-attended meeting April 1, and voted unanimously to urge your government to cease the erosion of jobs in the Canadian industry by enforcing strict content laws.

"We further protest the import of V-6 engines from Mexico when we in St. Catharines have people laid off at a plant which makes that identical engine. If we are to preserve the auto industry in Canada, the manufacturers of automobiles and automobile parts must be forced to manufacture their parts in Canada, if they wish to be able to sell their products here in Canada.

"Your government's immediate attention to this matter is mandatory if we are to prevent the

automobile industry from suffering the same fate as the electronics and textile industries."

It is signed by Mike Cook, John Clout and Gerry Michaud of the GM unit of Local 199.

Not only does the member point out in his resolution that we must urge and give full support to any federal initiatives in this direction, requiring content of at least 85 per cent — the member suggests 100 per cent — and restricting on a short term basis the number of vehicles that come in from Japan, but he also contemplates and includes in his resolution a couple of items that are within provincial jurisdiction and that deserve support. He talks about establishing a short-term community adjustment fund that would provide assistance to laid-off and terminated workers and would assist currently affected communities to restructure their industrial base.

There is no question that communities where there are large automotive manufacturing concerns are suffering in terms of the taxes that can be paid and the growth in assessment. I am talking, of course, about the fact that many who are confronted with these layoffs, some on a short term basis, some on a longer term basis, have difficulty meeting their commitments in terms of property taxation. Therefore, the community has a diminished tax base from which to work, at the same time as it is probably being called upon to render more assistance at the social level, particularly to the welfare agencies and other help agencies around the area.

Certainly this is the case in the Niagara Peninsula where those who no longer have supplementary benefits available to them and whose unemployment insurance has run out are forced to go to the region to receive welfare benefits, part of that coming from the provincial government and a portion from the region. The demands that are placed on the local communities adversely affected by massive layoffs in the automotive industry call out for provincial government assistance and the kind of short-term community adjustment fund that is contemplated by the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. Cooke).

An extension of research and development would certainly be of benefit to us. As has been noted, we in the Niagara Peninsula have the automotive parts technology centre located very close to General Motors. I think that on a long-term basis it will be of some assistance. It certainly does not provide jobs in the short term: six to eight jobs at the beginning, perhaps 50 jobs at full tilt. But I think the importance of this kind of step, and I encourage more steps in that direction, is that it will help us to be competitive in the auto parts manufacturing

area through research and development and educational services that would be available there.

So we look for more of that from the provincial government. This is a field, contrary to what many people would say, that is within the jurisdiction of the provincial government. We hope we can expect more initiatives in that regard.

Entering into joint ventures with automotive manufacturing concerns does leave some questions. When the government becomes involved in assisting industry, we would want to see a stipulation that there would be job guarantees. There are many who are concerned that when government does provide assistance to industry, those job guarantees are not ironclad and that sometimes we are merely moving jobs around as opposed to creating new jobs.

There is a good deal of concern among the members from Windsor that the assistance provided did not create enough jobs. I believe \$40 million was supplied by the federal government and \$28 million by the provincial government to Ford. This created some jobs, yes, but there were other jobs that were perhaps lost as a result of this. We believe there should be some kind of guarantee that there would be new jobs that would not displace other jobs before we would encourage the government to embark on expenditures of that kind.

Members of the government party have spoken about the need for some kind of unanimity in the opposition about urging our federal government to become involved in the more restrictive measures on a short-term basis. This is a valid concern, particularly when we recognize that the federal government is balancing the demands of us in Ontario against those in British Columbia, perhaps, or another province. These provinces might see some detriment in pursuing a policy that might be restrictive in nature and certainly would talk about something other than free trade.

It takes a united voice from those of us who sit in this Legislature and allies we can find in other provinces to ensure the federal government has that support from a sufficient segment of the population. It also needs support from a sufficient number of members of all parties represented in the federal Parliament so they can take the necessary steps to assist our automotive industry.

At the same time, we must recognize there is always the chance that people in other parts of this country may be somewhat adversely affected if those nations, against whom we would take these kinds of penalties into consideration, retaliated in specific areas. As the former Minis-

ter of Industry and Tourism (Mr. Grossman) walks in, I recall that on some occasions, at least in the past, he has been quick to remind the honourable members of that possibility when we talk about some restrictions.

I think those of us who represent automotive centres are prepared to take that risk at present. Therefore, I will be supporting this resolution. I think there are sufficient items in it worthy of the kind of support we in this Legislature can bring to it.

Mr. Speaker: I would ask the members to withhold their private conversations please so we may hear the debate. The member for Nickel Belt has two minutes.

Mr. Laughren: Perhaps they can withhold their applause until I am finished, too, Mr. Speaker.

During this debate this afternoon a couple of things struck me. One was the lack of members of the government party who were in attendance to hear the debate and take part in it. Another was the fact that the member for Chatham-Kent (Mr. Watson) did not take part in the debate. I find that passing strange.

5:50 p.m.

When I hear members of the government party extolling the virtues of both the free enterprise system and foreign ownership of the Ontario economy, I think they should be told about a decision that was made this afternoon in Windsor—it was made in Detroit, I am sure—that the purchasing department of Chrysler Canada is being moved to Detroit.

That is exactly the kind of thing we have been trying to say to this government for many years now. They should not be surprised that when an economic crunch hit North America, the auto industry would repatriate its parts plants. We need only look at Bendix and at Houdaille to see examples of that policy.

The United Auto Workers was telling the industry for years it was bull-headed in its insistence in producing the big cars. In this chamber the government has been told many times about the silliness of the policy that the industry is pursuing. We have asked this government many times to pressure the federal government to do something about that auto pact because we were not getting our fair share under the auto pact.

5:56 p.m.

GOVERNMENT JET

The House divided on Mr. Bradley's motion of resolution 11, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes

Bradley, Breaugh, Bryden, Cassidy, Charlton, Conway, Cooke, Copps, Cunningham, Eakins, Elston, Foulds, Grande, Haggerty, Hennessy, Johnston, R. F., Kerrio, Laughren, MacDonald, Mackenzie, Martel, McClellan, McGuigan, Miller, G. I., Nixon, Philip, Reid, T. P., Renwick, Riddell, Ruston, Van Horne, Worton, Wrye.

Nays

Andrewes, Ashe, Baetz, Barlow, Bennett, Bernier, Birch, Brandt, Cousens, Cureatz, Dean, Drea, Eaton, Elgie, Eves, Fish, Gordon, Gregory, Grossman, Harris, Havrot, Henderson, Hodgson, Johnson, J. M., Jones, Kells, Kolyn.

Lane, Leluk, MacQuarrie, McCaffrey, McCague, McLean, Miller, F. S., Mitchell, Norton, Pollock, Ramsay, Robinson, Runciman, Scrivener, Sheppard, Snow, Stephenson, B. M., Sterling, Stevenson, K. R., Taylor, G. W., Taylor, J. A., Timbrell, Treleaven, Villeneuve, Walker, Watson, Wells, Williams, Wiseman.

Clerk of the House: Mr. Hennessy did not vote.

Mr. Speaker: Apparently the member for Thunder Bay did not vote, and there is no such thing as an abstention.

Ms. Copps: Fort William.

Mr. Speaker: Fort William. I am sorry. I will rephrase that; the member for Fort William—

An hon. member: He voted.

An hon. member: He voted "aye."

Mr. Speaker: Did he?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Did you vote?

Mr. Hennessy: I did not vote on the government side; I voted against the government.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Interjections.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I congratulate the member for Fort William, but I think he is technically incorrect. There is no government side in private members' business. It is a free vote.

Mr. Speaker: I think we all got the idea.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Ayes 33; nays 56.

AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

The House divided on Mr. Cooke's motion of resolution 2, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes

Bradley, Breaugh, Bryden, Cassidy, Charlton,

Conway, Cooke, Copps, Cunningham, Cureatz, Eakins, Elston, Foulds, Grande, Haggerty, Hennessy, Johnston, R. F., Kerrio, Laughren, MacDonald, Mackenzie, Martel, McClellan, McGuigan, Miller, G. I., Nixon, Philip, Reid, T. P., Renwick, Riddell, Ruston, Van Horne, Worton, Wrye.

Nays

Andrewes, Ashe, Baetz, Barlow, Bennett, Bernier, Birch, Brandt, Cousens, Dean, Drea, Eaton, Elgie, Eves, Fish, Gordon, Gregory, Grossman, Harris, Havrot, Henderson, Hodgson, Johnson, J. M., Jones, Kells, Kolyn, Lane, Leluk, MacQuarrie, McCaffrey, McCague, McLean, Miller, F. S., Mitchell;

Norton, Pollock, Ramsay, Robinson, Runciman, Scrivener, Sheppard, Snow, Stephenson, B. M., Sterling, Stevenson, K. R., Taylor, G. W., Taylor, J. A., Timbrell, Treleaven, Villeneuve, Walker, Watson, Wells, Williams, Wiseman.

Ayes 34; nays 55.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I would like to

indicate to the House the business for next week.

On Tuesday, April 13, we will reconvene and continue debate on the throne speech motion in the afternoon and the evening.

On Wednesday, April 14, as is customary, the usual three committees may meet in the morning.

On Thursday, April 15, we will debate private members' ballot items standing in the names of Mr. Gillies and Mr. Sweeney. On Thursday evening, we will continue the debate on the throne speech motion.

On Friday, April 16, we will also continue the throne speech motion debate.

May I also indicate, to assist members of the House, that we expect to be concluding the throne debate and voting on the main motion and amendments on Tuesday afternoon, April 20.

The House adjourned at 6.08 p.m.

ERRATUM

No.	Page	Column	Line	Should read
13	421	2	45	the working group—and tell us whether anything

APPENDIX A

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE PAPER*

PROVINCIAL EXPENDITURES
FOR BLIND RIVER

16. Mr. Wildman: Would the Minister of the Environment and the Minister of Northern Affairs inform the House of the total cost of water and sewer works carried out in Blind River in each of the years 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, and of the amount of provincial funds provided to assist the municipality in each of these years? What is the estimated cost of the completion of the upgrading and extension of the systems and what percentage of these costs is the provincial government allocating in the 1982 fiscal year? What is the total amount in dollars allocated to assist the municipality in 1982? [Tabled March 19, 1982].

Hon. Mr. Norton: The following information on provincial expenditures for the town of Blind River for the construction of water and sewage works is provided in response to question 16:

1975-76, \$8,819; 1976-77, \$5,470; 1977-78, \$229,190; 1978-79, \$1,338,791; 1979-80, \$409,876; 1980-81, \$166,121; 1981-82, \$338; total \$2,158,605.

This represents the total cost of sewage works constructed for the town under the regional

priority budget of the Ministry of Northern Affairs.¹

In addition, the Ministry of the Environment has contributed an amount of \$415,074 towards the cost of sewer construction undertaken by the municipality during the current fiscal year. The provincial share represents 41.2 per cent of the total cost of the works. A further \$200,000 has been allocated for 1982-83.

Finally, a grant of \$42,233 representing funding provided under the community services contribution program was paid to the town by the Ministry of the Environment during fiscal year 1981-82 for the above-noted sewer construction.

¹1975-76, 1976-77. RPB administered by Treasury and Economics.

*Answers that are lengthy or contained tabular material do not appear here. They are available through the Office of the Clerk of the House. Interim answers also are not printed here. The information they contained can be found in the Order Paper at the end of the question concerned.

APPENDIX B

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(124 members)

Second Session of the 32nd Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. J. B. Aird, OC, QC

Speaker: Hon. John M. Turner

Clerk of the House: Roderick Lewis, QC

- Andrewes, P. W. (Lincoln PC)
Ashe, Hon. G. L., Minister of Revenue (Durham West PC)
Baetz, Hon. R. C., Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Ottawa West PC)
 Barlow, W. W. (Cambridge PC)
Bennett, Hon. C. F., Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Ottawa South PC)
Bernier, Hon. L., Minister of Northern Affairs (Kenora PC)
Birch, Hon. M., Provincial Secretary for Social Development (Scarborough East PC)
 Boudria, D. (Prescott-Russell L)
 Bradley, J. J. (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, A. S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breaugh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Breithaupt, J. R. (Kitchener L)
 Bryden, M. H. (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Cassidy, M. (Ottawa Centre NDP)
 Charlton, B. A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Conway, S. G. (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, D. S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Copps, S. M. (Hamilton Centre L)
 Cousens, D., Deputy Chairman of Committees of the Whole House (York Centre PC)
 Cunningham, E. G. (Wentworth North L)
 Cureatz, S. L., Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees of the Whole House (Durham East PC)
Davis, Hon. W. G., Premier (Brampton PC)
 Dean, G. H. (Wentworth PC)
 Di Santo, O. (Downsview NDP)
Drea, Hon. F., Minister of Community and Social Services (Scarborough Centre PC)
 Eakins, J. F. (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Eaton, Hon. R. G., Minister without Portfolio (Middlesex PC)
 Edighoffer, H. A. (Perth L)
Elgie, Hon. R. G., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (York East PC)
 Elston, M. J. (Huron-Bruce L)
 Epp, H. A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, E. L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Fish, S. A. (St. George PC)
 Foulds, J. F. (Port Arthur NDP)
 Gillies, P. A. (Brantford PC)
 Gordon, J. K. (Sudbury PC)
 Grande, T. (Oakwood NDP)
Gregory, Hon. M. E. C., Minister without Portfolio (Mississauga East PC)
Grossman, Hon. L. S., Minister of Health (St. Andrew-St. Patrick PC)
 Haggerty, R. (Erie L)
 Harris, M. D. (Nipissing PC)
 Havrot, E. M. (Timiskaming PC)
Henderson, Hon. L. C., Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Lambton PC)
 Hennessy, M. (Fort William PC)
 Hodgson, W. (York North PC)
 Johnson, J. M. (Wellington-Dufferin-Peel PC)
 Johnston, R. F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Jones, T. (Mississauga North PC)
 Kells, M. C. (Humber PC)
 Kennedy, R. D. (Mississauga South PC)
 Kerr, G. A. (Burlington South PC)
 Kerrio, V. G. (Niagara Falls L)
 Kolyn, A. (Lakeshore PC)
 Lane, J. G. (Algoma-Manitoulin PC)
 Laughren, F. (Nickel Belt NDP)
Leluk, Hon. N. G., Minister of Correctional Services (York West PC)
 Lupusella, A. (Dovercourt NDP)
 MacDonald, D. C. (York South NDP)
 Mackenzie, R. W. (Hamilton East NDP)
 MacQuarrie, R. W. (Carleton East PC)
 Mancini, R. (Essex South L)
 Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)
McCaffrey, Hon. R. B., Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Armourdale PC)
McCague, Hon. G. R., Chairman, Management Board of Cabinet (Dufferin-Simcoe PC)
 McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP)
 McEwen, J. E. (Frontenac-Addington L)
 McGuigan, J. F. (Kent-Elgin L)
 McKessock, R. (Grey L)
 McLean, A. K. (Simcoe East PC)
McMurtry, Hon. R. R., Attorney General (Eglington PC)
 McNeil, R. K. (Elgin PC)
Miller, Hon. F. S., Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics (Muskoka PC)
 Miller, G. I. (Haldimand-Norfolk L)
 Mitchell, R. C. (Carleton PC)
 Newman, B. (Windsor-Walkerville L)

Nixon, R. F. (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)
Norton, Hon. K. C., Minister of the Environment (Kingston and the Islands PC)
 O'Neil, H. P. (Quinte L)
 Peterson, D. R. (London Centre L)
 Philip, E. T. (Etobicoke NDP)
 Piché, R. L. (Cochrane North PC)
 Pollock, J. (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
Pope, Hon. A. W., Minister of Natural Resources (Cochrane South PC)
Ramsay, Hon. R. H., Minister of Labour (Sault Ste. Marie PC)
 Reed, J. A. (Halton-Burlington L)
 Reid, T. P. (Rainy River L-Lab.)
 Renwick, J. A. (Riverdale NDP)
 Riddell, J. K. (Huron-Middlesex L)
 Robinson, A. M. (Scarborough-Ellesmere PC)
 Rotenberg, D. (Wilson Heights PC)
 Roy, A. J. (Ottawa East L)
 Runciman, R. W. (Leeds PC)
 Ruprecht, T. (Parkdale L)
 Ruston, R. F. (Essex North L)
 Samis, G. R. (Cornwall NDP)
 Sargent, E. C. (Grey-Bruce L)
 Scrivener, M. (St. David PC)
 Sheppard, H. N. (Northumberland PC)
 Shymko, Y. R. (High Park-Swansea PC)
Snow, Hon. J. W., Minister of Transportation and Communications (Oakville PC)
 Spensieri, M. A. (Yorkview L)
Stephenson, Hon. B. M., Minister of Education and Minister of Colleges and Universities (York Mills PC)
Sterling, Hon. N. W., Provincial Secretary for Justice (Carleton-Grenville PC)
 Stevenson, K. R. (Durham-York PC)
 Stokes, J. E. (Lake Nipigon NDP)
 Swart, M. L. (Welland-Thorold NDP)
 Sweeney, J. (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
Taylor, Hon. G. W., Solicitor General (Simcoe Centre PC)
 Taylor, J. A. (Prince Edward-Lennox PC)
Timbrell, Hon. D. R., Minister of Agriculture and Food (Don Mills PC)
 Treleaven, R. L. (Oxford PC)
Turner, Hon. J. M., Speaker (Peterborough PC)
 Van Horne, R. G. (London North L)
 Villeneuve, O. F. (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry PC)
Walker, Hon. G. W., Minister of Industry and Trade (London South PC)
 Watson, A. N. (Chatham-Kent PC)
Welch, Hon. R. S., Minister of Energy (Brock PC)
Wells, Hon. T. L., Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Scarborough North PC)
 Wildman, B. (Algoma NDP)

Williams, J. R. (Oriole PC)
Wiseman, Hon. D. J., Minister of Government Services (Lanark PC)
 Worton, H. (Wellington South L)
 Wrye, W. M. (Windsor-Sandwich L)
 Yakabuski, P. J. (Renfrew South PC)

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Davis, Hon. W. G., Premier and President of the Council
 Welch, Hon. R. S., Minister of Energy and Deputy Premier
 Wells, Hon. T. L., Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs
 Bernier, Hon. L., Minister of Northern Affairs
 Snow, Hon. J. W., Minister of Transportation and Communications
 Birch, Hon. M., Provincial Secretary for Social Development
 Bennett, Hon. C. F., Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
 Miller, Hon. F. S., Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics
 Timbrell, Hon. D. R., Minister of Agriculture and Food
 Stephenson, Hon. B. M., Minister of Education and Minister of Colleges and Universities
 McMurtry, Hon. R. R., Attorney General
 Henderson, Hon. L. C., Provincial Secretary for Resources Development
 Norton, Hon. K. C., Minister of the Environment
 Drea, Hon. F., Minister of Community and Social Services
 Grossman, Hon. L., Minister of Health
 McCague, Hon. G., Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet and Chairman of Cabinet
 Baetz, Hon. R. C., Minister of Tourism and Recreation
 Wiseman, Hon. D. J., Minister of Government Services
 Elgie, Hon. R. G., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations
 Walker, Hon. G. W., Minister of Industry and Trade
 Gregory, Hon. M. E. C., Minister without Portfolio
 Pope, Hon. A. W., Minister of Natural Resources
 Leluk, Hon. N. G., Minister of Correctional Services
 Ashe, Hon. G. L., Minister of Revenue
 Ramsay, Hon. R. H., Minister of Labour
 McCaffrey, Hon. R. B., Minister of Citizenship and Culture
 Sterling, Hon. N. W., Provincial Secretary for Justice

Taylor, Hon. G. W., Solicitor General
Eaton, Hon. R. G., Minister without Portfolio

PARLIAMENTARY ASSISTANTS

Andrewes, P. W. (Lincoln), assistant to the Minister of Energy
Brandt, A. S. (Sarnia), assistant to the Minister of Labour
Dean, G. H. (Wentworth), assistant to the Minister of Education and the Minister of Colleges and Universities
Fish, S. A. (St. George), assistant to the Minister of Citizenship and Culture.
Gillies, P. A. (Brantford), assistant to the Provincial Secretary for Social Development.
Gordon, J. K. (Sudbury), assistant to the Minister of Health
Hennessy, M. (Fort William), assistant to the Minister of Northern Affairs
Hodgson, W. (York North), assistant to the Minister of Government Services
Jones, T. (Mississauga North), assistant to the Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics
Kennedy, R. D. (Mississauga South), assistant to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs
Lane, J. G. (Algoma-Manitoulin), assistant to the Minister of Industry and Trade
MacQuarrie, R. W. (Carleton East), assistant to the Solicitor General
McNeil, R. K. (Elgin), assistant to the Minister of Agriculture and Food
Mitchell, R. C. (Carleton), assistant to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations
Rotenberg, D. (Wilson Heights), assistant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Stevenson, K. R. (Durham-York), assistant to the Minister of the Environment
Watson, A. N. (Chatham-Kent), assistant to the Minister of Community and Social Services
Williams, J. R. (Oriole), assistant to the Minister of Revenue
Yakabuski, P. J. (Renfrew South), assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources

STANDING COMMITTEES

Administration of justice: chairman, Mr. Treleaven; members, Messrs. Brandt, Breithaupt, Elston, Eves, MacQuarrie, McLean, Mitchell, Renwick, Spensieri, Stevenson and Swart; clerk, D. Arnott.

General government: chairman, Mr. Barlow; members, Messrs. Dean, Eakins, Gordon, Haggerty, Hennessy, J. M. Johnson, Lane, MacDonald, McKessock, Samis and J. A. Taylor; clerk, F. Nokes.

Resources development: chairman, Mr. Harris; members, Mr. Andrewes, Ms. Fish, Messrs. Kolyn, Laughren, McNeil, Reed, Riddell, Stokes, Sweeney, Villeneuve and Williams; clerk, A. Richardson.

Social development: chairman, Mr. Shymko; members, Messrs. Boudria, Cooke, Ms. Copps, Messrs. Gillies, R. F. Johnston, Kells, McGuigan, Pollock, Robinson, Sheppard and Watson; clerk, G. White.

Members' services: chairman, Mr. Robinson; members, Messrs. Grande, Havrot, Hodgson, Jones, Mackenzie, G. I. Miller, Piché, Rotenberg, Runciman, Ruprecht and Wrye; clerk, A. Richardson.

Procedural affairs: chairman, Mr. Kerr; members, Messrs. Breaugh, Charlton, Edighoffer, Epp, J. M. Johnson, Lane, Mancini, Piché, Rotenberg, Treleaven and Watson; clerk, S. Forsyth.

Public accounts: chairman, Mr. T. P. Reid; members, Messrs. Bradley, Cunningham, Havrot, Kennedy, Kolyn, Philip, Sargent, Mrs. Scrivener, Messrs. J. A. Taylor, Wildman and Yakabuski; clerk, G. White.

Regulations and other statutory instruments: chairman, Mr. Eves; members, Mr. Barlow, Ms. Bryden, Messrs. DiSanto, Gordon, Hennessy, Hodgson, Jones, Kerrio, McEwen, Runciman and Van Horne; clerk, D. Arnott.

SELECT COMMITTEES

Ombudsman: chairman, Mr. Runciman; members, Messrs. Boudria, Cooke, Gordon, MacQuarrie, G. I. Miller, Mitchell, Philip, Piché, Shymko, Treleaven and Van Horne; clerk, G. White.

Pensions: chairman, Mr. J. A. Taylor; members, Messrs. Brandt, Cousens, Cureatz, Gillies, Haggerty, Jones, Mackenzie, McClellan, Riddell, Van Horne and Williams; clerk, G. White.

*The lists in this appendix, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard on the first Friday of each month and in the first and last issues of each session. They appear in this issue to correct the lists published on Friday, April 2.

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Ontario. *LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

No. 21

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)



Second Session, Thirty-Second Parliament

Tuesday, April 13, 1982

Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, April 13, 1982

The House met at 2:02 p.m.

Prayers.

VISITOR

Mr. Speaker: While waiting for the members, I would like to ask those present to join me in welcoming Mr. David A. Arblaster, who is in the Speaker's gallery. He is the member for Mosman, New South Wales, Australia. He has assured me he has brought the good weather with him.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) rose on a point of privilege. The purported question of privilege arose as a result of a statement that I made in the House on April 5 concerning health and safety issues at a company called Rothsay Concentrates Ltd.

The essence of the honourable member's point of privilege was that I had incorrectly advised the House that as a result of an inspection by the ministry's industrial health and safety branch on April 2, all but one of 72 outstanding orders had been complied with. The member referred to the inspector's report, which from his interpretation indicated that only 19 of 72 items had been looked at by the inspector.

I am able to advise the House that the information I gave on April 5 was correct and, further, that the member for Sudbury East has misunderstood the inspector's report. The 19 entries on the report referred to by the member grouped the various 72 items in accordance with the particular sections of the act or regulation in question. Thus, for example, the first of the 19 items actually refers to 21 individual orders.

The member, therefore, is incorrect when he suggests that my earlier statement was erroneous. He is further incorrect when he implies the inspector did not carry out a full and complete review of all outstanding issues on April 2.

I wish to add that the inspector confirms that during his inspection on April 2 he was accompanied by the union representative, who confirmed the accuracy of his report and signed it.

The member also referred to an accident and alleged the company had failed to comply with

notification requirements under subsection 26(1) of the act. That allegation has been reported to an inspector who has investigated the matter.

Apparently, neither the company nor the senior union official responsible is aware of the particular incident. However, the inspector is returning to the plant on Thursday of this week and will pursue the matter. In the meantime, I hope the member can provide more particular information so the matter can be thoroughly and properly investigated.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

CITY OF TORONTO 1981 ASSESSMENT COMPLAINTS BILL

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill entitled An Act to provide for the Institution of Complaints for Certain Assessments made in the year 1981 in the City of Toronto.

As many members are aware, the recent assessment increases to residential properties in the city of Toronto have resulted in considerable controversy and discussion.

In response to the concerns of the city of Toronto officials and affected ratepayers, I developed a proposal which was unanimously endorsed by the Toronto city council on April 1, 1982. The details of that proposal are embodied in this bill.

While I do not intend to deal with the details of the bill at this time, I would like to inform the members that this bill deems those residential ratepayers in the city of Toronto who did not appeal their assessment increases to have appealed.

I believe this bill represents the most effective means available to deal with the city of Toronto's concerns respecting those ratepayers who did not appeal, while at the same time allowing my ministry to fulfil its statutory obligations under the Assessment Act to ensure that properties which were enlarged, altered or renovated be assessed at levels otherwise prevailing on similar properties in their neighbourhood.

In conclusion, I believe this measure will provide more than ample opportunity for the affected ratepayers to be made aware that their appeals have been registered, to have their

assessments reviewed and explained by assessors and to take advantage of the appeal process if they so desire.

CONSTITUTIONAL CELEBRATIONS

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to inform the House about our provincial celebrations, which will be held this Saturday, April 17, to mark the arrival home and proclamation of Canada's new Constitution.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the Queen of Canada, will proclaim the new Constitution in a grand ceremony on Parliament Hill in Ottawa this Saturday.

The royal party will arrive at 3 p.m. on Thursday, with the arrival ceremony being televised. After a number of appointments on Friday, Her Majesty will attend a gala performance at the National Arts Centre at 6 p.m. This will also be televised. She will then dine with Young Achievers from across Canada.

On Saturday, there will be the proclamation ceremonies, with the departure of the royal party scheduled for 10 a.m. Sunday.

Here in Ontario, everyone is invited to watch the proclamation ceremony on large television screens which will be set up in this Legislative Building. Our program here will get under way at 10 a.m. on Saturday, with music provided by the band of the Royal Regiment of Canada. There will be coffee, apple juice and cookies available for all those attending.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Wow! No hot dogs? Grind up a few cabinet ministers.

Hon. Mr. Wells: No hot dogs. They are being saved for July 1. There will be no charge for the coffee, cookies and apple juice.

Mr. T. P. Reid: If it's the usual stuff, nobody would pay for it anyway.

Hon. Mr. Wells: It is the usual high-quality apple juice that is available in the lobbies for both opposition and government members.

2:10 p.m.

At 10:35 a.m. the Deputy Premier (Mr. Welch) will bring greetings on behalf of the Premier (Mr. Davis) and all members of the Legislature. Incidentally, at that time all the members of the Legislature who are present will be introduced.

At 10:45 a.m., the program will go directly to Ottawa, via television, for the proclamation ceremony. Upon completion of the hour-long Ottawa portion of the celebration—just before noon here in Toronto—all those present here will join in singing O Canada, being led by

Catherine McKinnon; then they will be offered a glass of Ontario wine and may join in a salute to Canada.

All members of the Legislature, as I have indicated, have been invited to attend this very historic occasion here in the Legislative Building.

Special Ontario commemorative medallions, in English and French, are being minted to mark this occasion, and everyone at the Queen's Park ceremony will receive one of these medallions. In addition, each member of this Legislature will receive 100 medallions for presentation as he may wish in his own constituency. A special silver edition of the medallion is being minted for the Premier to present to Her Majesty the Queen.

In conclusion, this week is the time for all of us to celebrate in the best Canadian tradition, because after 115 years we are finally bringing home our Constitution. This is the product of much hard work and concerted effort by many Canadians. We have achieved a remarkable document which represents a very vital affirmation of our nationhood and a reaffirmation of our belief in the monarchy, our belief in democratic and human rights, our belief in parliamentary government; in short, it represents all of our vision of Canada.

This Saturday, we are adding to our flag and to our national anthem a truly made-in-Canada Constitution. I know we will all want to celebrate this event appropriately.

VISITOR

Mr. Hennessy: Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the members to the presence in your gallery of Mr. James Jessiman, the former member for Fort William.

ORAL QUESTIONS

Mr. Peterson: Before I start, Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the honourable minister on his statement today. I only express our regret that he will not be here; I assume he will be in Ottawa with our new Father of Confederation, the Premier, as well as the two midwives who participated with him. I assume they will be enjoying the festivities in Ottawa, leaving the Deputy Premier to conduct these negotiations and to drink the apple juice the minister is so gratefully providing.

PHYSICIANS' SERVICES

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health. It was apparent to

everyone in this province that the minister's posture during the on-and-off-again negotiations of a week or so ago was to hope that the Ontario Medical Association would break ranks, that there would be a breakdown of discipline in that group and that the ordinary doctors would not follow the advice of the leadership of the OMA.

In view of the fact that this assumption has proven false; in view of the fact that doctors in Scarborough, St. Thomas, Welland, Brampton, Port Colborne, Fort Erie, Simcoe county, Sudbury and other areas walked out yesterday; and in view of the fact that one fifth of the OMA's branches are on strike today in North York, Brantford, Brampton, Paris, Guelph, Dunnville, Cayuga, Hamilton, Mississauga, Belleville, Trenton, Kirkland Lake and Parry Sound, is it not apparent to the minister that in addition to mismanaging the negotiations, he has made a gross miscalculation as to the militancy of the doctors?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, may I begin by saying that if the Leader of the Opposition suggests that a government which has proposed a 34 per cent increase in doctor's incomes over three years, a 14 per cent increase in the schedule of benefits for this year and a \$12,000 annual increase for this year in physicians' incomes has mismanaged the negotiations, then I presume he is taking the position that we ought to be paying more.

If the Leader of the Opposition is making that presumption, I have to say to him that peace can be purchased at a price. The question is what is a reasonable and fair price. If he is suggesting that we pay 34 per cent in one year or 20 per cent in one year or 25 per cent in one year, then I have to say to him that those of us sitting on this side of the House have certain responsibilities, and they are to pay fair rates under the Ontario health insurance plan schedule of benefits, to make sure doctors earn fair incomes and make sure the taxpayers also are protected.

I do not consider these negotiations to have been mismanaged by this government in any degree whatsoever. In fact, there is no point during the negotiations where one could say we acted in bad faith or the OMA could legitimately put forward a case that we had not laid out all the facts to them.

There is no credible way in which it can be suggested that by implementing our last offer in good faith, on April 1, we did anything but be fair, open and reasonable with the profession. Indeed, if we had not done that on April 1, the

Leader of the Opposition would be rising and suggesting that we had mismanaged the situation and caused these rotating strikes because we had failed to make an adjustment on April 1.

May I also say that the Leader of the Opposition began his question by suggesting my faith had been improperly placed in the fact that the OMA would break ranks and not participate in the job action. If he had watched carefully the remarks I was making over those weeks, he would have recognized I have been saying that I firmly believe the physicians of this province are so dedicated to the welfare of their patients that they will not, under any circumstances, allow patient care and patient health to be threatened.

As I look over what has happened earlier this week and what is happening today, it is becoming quite clear that, by and large, patient health has not yet been threatened. There are a couple of instances that have caused me some concern, in that patient health care in those instances may have been threatened. Those cases will be referred by us immediately and directly to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, which is the appropriate disciplinary body.

My faith in the medical profession, which I espoused here earlier, has held; that is, my faith that they would not allow their patients' health to be threatened simply because they wanted more money this year, next year and the year after.

If that situation deteriorates and if the medical profession disappoints me and fails to meet its obligations to look after the health of its patients, then obviously we will have a dramatically different situation than we have today. But to date I believe my faith in the medical profession has been shown to be accurate, because no patient's health has been threatened. There may be some examples, as I said earlier, and where those examples are evident, prompt and severe action will be taken.

Mr. Peterson: The minister may have a misplaced and misguided faith, but I can tell him what he said is not that. What he said on April 6 was this, "A vast majority of doctors will be saying: 'Let us not take these kinds of steps. Let us instead resume negotiation,'" saying thereby that the doctors would not stage the rotating strikes or walkouts or whatever he wants to call them. He was hoping they would not. Other seers predicted that the doctors' militancy would become an issue. We know, and the press knows, of specific cases of people who have been hurt by this situation across the province.

The minister read the press reports today. I am sure he did.

I also bring to his attention the case of Mrs. Jean Wahl in Waterloo whose surgery was cancelled because of the walkouts. These are starting to affect patients in this province. Does the minister have any plan, or is he just going to continue on with this naive faith and these mild blandishments?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I understand the Leader of the Opposition wishes to provoke a situation that will not be helpful in resolving the situation of health care in this province. But, quite frankly, I am not going to permit him to do that. He can stand up and ask provocative questions and raise these individual cases and try to get different answers out of me every day this week, but my answer has not changed.

The disciplinary body in charge, the College of Physicians and Surgeons, which members will note has lived up to its obligation over the weekend, has made very clear in all public utterances that it will investigate all cases brought to its attention and fulfil its responsibilities.

2:20 p.m.

I do not know how many times I can repeat this to the Leader of the Opposition, but every single case that is brought to our attention—

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I know he wants to instigate, but I want peace and I want an agreement out there. His kind of frustration at having failed to make a mark so far is not going to get in the way of the discussions between ourselves and the OMA.

Let me make it very clear. Regardless of how many times he might ask this question, every single case that is brought to our attention will be referred to the College of Physicians and Surgeons, which is the ultimate disciplinary body. The college has assured us it will deal with any case that is brought to its attention.

I might also remind the Leader of the Opposition that yesterday morning—

Mr. Peterson: No wonder the doctors don't like you.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Do you want an answer?
Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Yesterday morning we notified the Ontario Hospital Association that we wanted a full and complete report on the disposition of all elective surgery that was being cancelled as a result of the action being taken. We expect the hospitals to make their own

judgements with regard to whether the disposition of those elective surgical cases was proper. If it was not, we expect a reference to be made to the college to see whether the doctors involved did, indeed, threaten the health of their patients. To date, as I indicated, with one or two exceptions there is no indication that happened on a broad basis.

Further, we are going to review all of these cases in the Ministry of Health. During this week I will have before myself and my staff a list of the disposition of all the elective surgery being cancelled in this province, and if there are any which raise doubts in our minds with regard to the disposition of those cases and as to the handling of patient care in this province, those cases will be referred to the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

In short, the answer to the question is that prompt, firm action will be taken in each and every instance where patient care is threatened in this province.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I want to make sure I understand what the minister is saying. Am I correct, in paraphrasing what the minister said, that he will refer every single case—and I understand that to be of professional misconduct, or suspected professional misconduct, as a result of the rotating strikes—one case at a time to the College of Physicians and Surgeons and that he will permit the rotating strikes to continue on an indefinite basis, perhaps until they escalate into a full-scale walkout?

Is that a correct understanding of the position? And how many cases—two, I gather, already are referred—are too many cases?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, obviously until the OMA makes a decision such as I think some people in the OMA are mistakenly considering, of going the route of becoming a union, which is something I do not think would have broad-based support among the OMA, then we are not in a situation to bring in legislation to legislate them back to work.

In point of fact, I can only deal with—and only intend to deal with—today's situation today. We have to deal with this situation a day at a time. At present, by and large, health care has not been threatened. I do believe that almost every physician in this province will ultimately decide that he or she is not going to risk the health and safety of his or her patients to get more income for himself or herself. I do believe that.

That is why I think these hypothetical questions with regard to how many referrals to the

college become too many are really just that: hypothetical questions. Unless one believes there are a vast number of physicians out there who are prepared to risk the lives, health and safety of their patients to make more money for themselves, then we will not have that problem.

I believe the vast majority of physicians—almost all the physicians—will not threaten the safety of their patients. If they did, then we would clearly have a breakdown, not only in negotiations and in governmental structures but also in the very fabric of our society and running throughout the entire medical profession in this province. It would go a lot more deeply than how much money we are paying the profession this year.

If the only thing keeping the medical profession in this province from threatening the health of their patients is how much the government pays them, then I would be shocked beyond belief. I do not think that is the case at all and, quite frankly, I do not think the honourable members think that is the case either.

Mr. Peterson: In addition to the minister's original miscalculation about the understanding of the degree of militancy among doctors and what is going to transpire there, he is now adopting a new strategy, as I understand it, to set patient against doctor. Asking patients to report doctors to the College of Physicians and Surgeons will create a further breach between those kinds of relationships.

How can the minister be proud of putting his responsibility on to patients, interfering with what has historically always been a very sacred relationship in the medical profession? That is who the minister is putting the onus on.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I am not sure which alternative the Leader of the Opposition is suggesting. Does he suggest that the Ministry of Health post a guardian in each medical office in the province to monitor the situation? Surely patients in this province will let us know. They are citizens. They care about their medical health. Surely they will let us know what is happening.

If the Leader of the Opposition suggests we are setting patient against doctor, I say to him that one of the things we have always valued very highly on this side of the House, and have been criticized for, is trying to protect the doctor-patient relationship.

He may recall, unlike his federal counterpart, Monique Bégin, who thinks all physicians should be opted in, that one of the reasons this government has argued constantly on behalf of having

the opt-out option is we believe that the patient-doctor relationship is very important and that opting out plays a role in that. We have been criticized for that. This government, above all other administrations, has been willing to go to some great length, and to take severe political criticism, to protect that doctor-patient relationship.

If the doctors of this province choose to test that relationship, it is unfortunate. I am very disappointed. With some relief I note that most doctors, even those participating in the action, are being very careful to deal with emergencies as they arise, to make sure they are monitoring their patients' health and to return to their offices the day after the strike. For those who are cancelling elective surgery, they are also taking great pains to make sure the surgery is rescheduled in an appropriate way so that their patients' health is not threatened.

Doctors have decided to take some job action to express discontent. They have done so in a way they believe does not threaten their relationship with their patients, and I believe we have acted in a way that will not threaten their relationship with their patients.

I say this to the Leader of the Opposition, in all sincerity. I understand the political realities of attending in this assembly every day, and I understand his responsibility as Leader of the Opposition. But taking positions that are intended to provoke and to escalate rhetoric beyond reasonable levels is not the kind of thing that will allow this situation to be resolved without scars.

My ultimate goal is to have a medical profession that feels it has been fairly treated, if not treated as well as it would have liked to have been, and to have a minimum number of scars. That is a delicate task for a Minister of Health.

I do not expect the Leader of the Opposition to share my responsibility, but, in asking a question, he ought to keep in mind that there is a larger goal we all must serve. The provocative questions are not going to get this minister to raise the rhetoric above the level he wants to go to.

Mr. Speaker: I would just point out to the government side and the ministers in particular that we have spent 18 minutes on one question. I would ask everybody to co-operate in keeping the questions and answers as brief as possible.

Mr. Peterson: I would like to thank the minister for taking the time to give us a lecture. I am very grateful the Minister of Health does understand the responsibilities of being in oppo-

sition, because he is guaranteeing that soon he is going to be over here and it will be a horse of a different colour.

2:30 p.m.

UNIVERSITY FUNDING

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the former past president of the Ontario Medical Association, the Minister of Colleges and Universities.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: One can't be a former past president.

Mr. Peterson: Past president, former president, whatever.

The minister is aware the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers may withhold accreditation for graduates of several of Ontario's engineering programs because engineering faculties in the province do not have the appropriate technical equipment to train their students. Such continued provincial underfunding to universities is a primary reason engineering faculties do not have adequate equipment.

I want to ask the minister whether she is prepared to increase funding for technical equipment for engineering schools. What is she going to do to prevent the loss of accreditation of various schools of engineering in the province?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge the accreditation process is carried out by the Canadian Accreditation Board and is based upon opinions and certain kinds of criteria which are established by the profession.

I have asked the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario for the confidential memo which was provided Dean Slemon because accreditation is a confidential activity which is relayed only to the dean of the faculty. I have asked Dean Slemon or APEO to give me a copy of the accreditation document so that we might see whether there was anything this government could do in addition to what we are already doing.

We are already funding engineering students at double the ordinary basic income unit, a rate which was agreed upon within this province to provide funding through the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development specifically. This year this has encouraged research in engineering and high technology by providing matching research grants to the tune of almost \$2 million and providing an additional \$8 million for improving the research capability of the universities within this province.

I have not as yet received the confidential

document from APEO and I would not comment upon that documentation or upon its rationale until I have had a chance to look at it.

Mr. Peterson: How can the minister sing the praises of BILD when it is going to offer a total of \$10 million to her ministry's programs? The deputy minister's own report, the Fisher report, said \$25 million was necessary immediately for equipment replacement. If we do not provide that amount of money we are going to reach the situation described by the dean of engineering at the University of Toronto. He said when new technology comes along we are not going to be able to respond to it.

In view of the chronic shortage of engineers now and what we will need in the future of this province, surely the minister has a responsibility to act on the basis of the information she has at the present time.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The special committee which examined the future role of universities suggested equipment requirements which, to my knowledge, on several occasions in the past were provided by grants from the federal government. However they were certainly not provided for in the last 15 years. They also suggested there was need for additional funding in a very wide range of areas, not just in engineering. The fund they suggested was for the entire university system throughout all areas of the universities.

Certainly if the quality of engineering in this province is declining it is a matter not known to students of engineering in Canada. Ontario has 45 per cent of all student engineers in Canada, a rather disproportionate number. We recognize that students come from all across Canada to study engineering in Ontario because of the high quality of the program. I intend that high quality to be retained.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, is the minister aware that her own government's manpower commission has recently reported to this province that in the next five years we are going to face very serious, if not chronic, shortages in the engineering sector, particularly as it relates to the developing high-tech industry in this province, something all of us want to encourage? Is she not aware of that indication from the Ontario Manpower Commission?

Does the minister not consider it a serious black mark against this government and this province that the Canadian Accreditation Board would make this assessment of the engineering capacity in this province, one that has ostensibly

made a commitment to the kind of research and development and the kind of software development we need if we are going to proceed into the 1980s with the hope and enthusiasm that the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program speaks to?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I am very much aware of the report of the Ontario Manpower Commission and I would remind the honourable member that if he read it carefully he would understand that when they are talking about high-technology areas they are not just talking about engineering. Indeed, the area in which there is likely to be the most monumental problem related to manpower is computer science.

I would remind the member that we share that shortage with the entire world, not just with other provinces in Canada or with North America. We have made a very specific commitment in support of the introduction of capacity within the colleges of applied arts and technology and the universities to try to assist in overcoming that shortage.

As I said earlier, I would suggest to the member that until he has seen the confidential memorandum of the accreditation committee, neither he nor I should make any comment about the criteria that are used or the suggestions that are made. I would like to see that document first.

PHYSICIANS' SERVICES

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I would like to return to the Minister of Health because in spite of his lengthy answer he has failed to do one important thing.

Would the minister inform this House and this province of the present state of negotiations with the Ontario Medical Association? How close is he to a settlement? In particular, will the minister consider the imposition of a cooling-off period through his authority under the Health Disciplines Act and will he advise the president and all members of the OMA in writing of his duties and responsibilities under the Health Disciplines Act and the Ontario Health Insurance Act for the maintenance of the health care system?

Will he also inform them of the obligations of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario so that the OMA will understand the grave consequences of concerted action by the association?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, with regard to the last question, with the intensive media

coverage of the situation and with the dedication of the medical profession to the health care of their patients—and I mean that quite sincerely—I am satisfied that all members of the profession in this province understand their obligations to the public and to their patients. I believe they understand that fully and I believe that, by and large, to date they have met those obligations.

How far apart are we and where are the negotiations? In terms of the last official offers put on the table, I should clarify a couple of points. The last offer was put by the government on Friday, March 26. That offer was the exact one which was implemented by me the following Thursday. That amounted to a 34 per cent increase over three years, which would result in a 42 per cent increase in doctors' incomes over those three years.

The OMA's last offer for a three-year contract, which was made prior to our last offer, was for a 57 per cent increase in the Ontario health insurance plan benefits over three years, resulting in a compounded increase of 72 per cent and an increase in physicians' incomes over three years of approximately 98 per cent, which would raise them to \$158,300.

2:40 p.m.

So this is clearly understood and so there is no suggestion these are government figures, let me make it clear the analysis of the last two offers put on the table are based upon the methodology adopted by Professor Weiler both last year and this year. I would remind the members of the profession that although they are unhappy with the Weiler methodology, they suggested Weiler be used as the fact-finder this year. We agreed and his methodology has not changed much. The extrapolation of the figures for three years on the basis of the value of the OMA's last offer is based upon the figures which the OMA provided us as to its anticipated calculation of the rate of inflation next year and the year after.

To emphasize, the figures I have just given are not government-made figures; they are the Weiler methodology in terms of evaluating the cost of the OMA offer based upon figures given us by the OMA.

That is how far apart the parties were at the point at which the negotiations were completed. The last offer was made by the government. No counter-offer was made by the OMA. The OMA knew that on April 1 the government would have to adjust the fee schedule in accordance with any of the three or four alternatives we then had available to us.

As the members know, we were faced with a

situation where the OMA indicated further dialogue would be useful and it said publicly it thought negotiations should have continued. We indicated the last offer out there was made by us and, further, that we had an outstanding offer to continue negotiations. Therefore, last Thursday I invited the OMA—I was not prepared to stand on any principle or wait for someone to call someone else. I think the public deserves better and therefore I caused our chief negotiator to send their chief negotiator a letter inviting them back to the negotiating table yesterday.

The OMA responded over the weekend saying that with four days' notice it could not assemble its negotiating team. We responded by saying part of our negotiating team would be pleased to meet with part of its negotiating team; in other words, any combination which might make it comfortable about meeting yesterday. They said that was impossible. We then suggested we meet today. That turned out to be unacceptable to the OMA. In conclusion, we are now looking at Thursday. A firm date has been fixed for this Thursday afternoon for the resumption of negotiations.

I might have wished, and frankly did wish, that the OMA might have recommended to its members that the job action they have taken, which will in some cases irrevocably change the public's view of the profession, might appropriately have been withheld or postponed pending the resumption of negotiations. It chose not to do that and I regret that. In any event, the status is that the outstanding offers are as I have indicated. Negotiations will resume Thursday afternoon at, I think, 2:30 p.m.

Mr. Foulds: I ask a supplementary question with some trepidation. Does the minister not understand it is his responsibility to ensure the universal public access to and quality of our health care system? Is he not aware that at the present time that is being endangered? What steps and what processes is he willing to take and to consider to ensure it is not in danger? What did his \$600-million settlement buy? We still have doctors and especially the OMA recommending work-to-rule and job actions. We still have discontented doctors. We still have patients who are in a state of anxiety. What is he looking at to ensure this kind of thing does not happen again?

Is he willing to look at Emmett Hall's suggestion about binding arbitration and establishing that in such a way the arbitration board is looked upon with respect as a board of integrity

by both the doctors and the people of the province? Finally, will the minister undertake to conduct negotiations, not merely through the media, but undertake to write the OMA and every member of the OMA about his responsibilities for the health care of the people of this province?

Mr. Speaker: Before the minister replies, I would remind him the last answer took six minutes. We are approaching halfway through the question period and we have only had three questions. I ask you to make a brief answer.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I regret the length of time but the words have to be carefully selected here. The questions and the situation are so delicate that it does take some care. May I say to the acting leader of the third party that we view compulsory arbitration as something that would be counterproductive to the government, the taxpayers and the medical profession in this province. I do not believe the medical profession wants compulsory arbitration. Mr. Justice Hall, if the member will follow up, after his original report later conceded that he was mistaken in suggesting compulsory arbitration in the form his report advocated. The member should check that. I know his Health critic has made that point several times—

Mr. McClellan: He was right the first time.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Yes, he was right the first time, but Mr. Justice Hall changed his mind. He ultimately concluded, as this headline from one of my favourite journals, the Medical Post, will confirm, that he had changed his mind on the question of compulsory arbitration.

I will also answer quite briefly the question as to why I do not communicate with all the members of the OMA. We had been prepared to communicate with all the members of the OMA but, quite frankly, I am very sensitive about a situation where I must prepare a statement of current status for all the members of the OMA—and there are 12,000 or 13,000 doctors in this province today—and put it in the mail and know it will arrive four or five days hence, with luck, when the circumstances, the mood and the atmosphere may be quite different from what they were the day we put pen to paper. Then it becomes a very difficult decision to make.

Since I am sensitive to the concerns raised by the Leader of the Opposition that some people will be anxious to accuse me of setting doctor against doctor, of going directly over the OMA to the membership—all these things are part of what is going on—I ultimately decided that a

direct communication from me to the membership for delivery five days hence might prove to be counterproductive and open us to suggestions that we were trying to bust up the OMA or divide its own membership.

It was a difficult judgement call. I want to say to the acting leader of the third party that I believe to date it has been right. I cannot say what I will do a week from today if the situation is no better than it is today. There may be a point at which that sort of communication will be appropriate. To date I have chosen not to, but we did consider it carefully.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, what action is the minister prepared to take to intervene directly if he receives information from either representatives of the Ontario Hospital Association board or the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario that patient care and universal accessibility is being threatened as a result of these doctors' strikes?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, all I can say is that the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario will obviously deal with any case in which patient care appears to have been threatened. I am also quite satisfied that every hospital in this province will ensure that the health of the patients who are residing in that hospital, and whose care they are entrusted with, will not be threatened either. That will happen. I cannot add much more to what I have said before to the member's leader and others. Where there is evidence that any doctor has acted in a way so that health care has been threatened he or she will be reported forthwith and directly to the disciplinary body.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I read in the Health Disciplines Act, subsection 3(1) that it is the duty of the minister to ensure that standards of practice of medicine are maintained and the rights of individuals are maintained. Does the minister see his duties compromised in the light of the story that appears on the first page of today's Toronto Star saying that a seven-year-old child was forced to go through the trauma of postponed, and fairly major, surgery?

More important, does the minister intend to sit there with these responsibilities under the act and permit the doctors to walk out at the Sick Children's Hospital, as is reported on page 6 of the afternoon newspaper? Does the minister think that it is anything other than obscene and despicable for doctors on strike to be using children as pawns, either in our general hospitals or in the Hospital for Sick Children; and

what does that do to his previous comments about his views of the responsibility of the profession?

2:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, the first case the member cited with regard to the seven-year-old lad is an instance where we will ask for an opinion from the college with regard to the procedure. We will be looking at it in our own ministry because there are going to be some cases where, in my view, a judgement made that a cancellation of a piece of elective surgery would not threaten a patient's health will be subject to some interpretation. In some cases, the cancellation of elective surgery may be tantamount to a threat to a patient's health though the doctor doing so may not have thought so.

I think this is a very dangerous and critical area into which doctors are stepping when they continue this action.

Mr. McClellan: What about the Sick Children's hospital?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I will get to the Sick Children's hospital in a minute.

When I look at a situation where a group of anaesthetists in a couple of hospitals in this province can unilaterally stop all elective surgery without, I suspect, a thorough analysis of the case histories where the surgery is being cancelled, this causes me some grave concern. That is going to be looked into. It is being looked into by our ministry as I speak right now.

I think the doctors have to be very careful. They have lived up to their obligation not to threaten health care to the present time, but when one gets a situation in which anaesthetists, in essence, are taking that kind of extreme action at places such as the Sick Children's hospital, then it causes me some grave concern. I think each and every one of those cases has to be looked at by the doctors cancelling that surgery.

I think too it is important the anaesthetists make sure, before they as a group withdraw their services from a hospital, they have consulted with the surgeons involved in each and every one of those surgical procedures to satisfy themselves that the withdrawal of their anaesthetic services for a day will not cause harm.

I say to the House and to the members of the profession, if those kinds of things are happening out there I would find them highly inappropriate, highly outrageous, and I would be the first to report them to the college. The proce-

ture they are following is being studied by us right now and appropriate action will be taken.

Mr. Speaker: New question, the member for Wentworth North.

Mr. Cunningham: Mr. Speaker, I hesitate to interrupt—

Mr. Speaker: Point of order, the member for Port Arthur.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, hard as you may find it to believe, that was my first question.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry, you are right. It has just taken so long to get through, I guess.

Mr. Foulds: I hope the Treasurer will be a little more succinct than the Minister of Health. Perhaps the Minister of Health could have helped matters by having a statement.

POVERTY LINE

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Treasurer a question about people living in poverty in Ontario—and I am not talking about the medical profession. Is the Treasurer aware that the report released in March by the National Council of Welfare, *Poverty in Canada*, indicates that 193,000 families in Ontario are living on incomes below the poverty line; that half of them, or 95,000 of those families, are working poor—they are working to be poor in Ontario—and that 41.5 per cent of those living below the poverty line in Canada—and one has no reason to assume that it is different in Ontario—are mother-led families?

Does that not make the Treasurer just a little bit ashamed, just a little bit angry to be the Treasurer of this province? What is he going to do to rectify the situation?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I am aware there are a number of statistical attempts to define the poverty line. I am also aware it is very difficult to apply that evenly across the province. What seems to be and is in fact a very real poverty line in some locations may be considered in others to be quite adequate.

I have really never been one who felt we could statistically choose a figure that arbitrarily said this person is below a poverty line and that one is above. I think the member would agree there are a number of different ways of calculating that line. That is simply one of them, as I understand it. Beyond that, yes, I am aware.

Mr. Foulds: If I may say so, the minister is also aware that he did not answer the second part of the question, that is, what are he and his government going to do about it? Is he aware

that the people on municipal welfare assistance, for example, are approximately 35 per cent below the poverty line? What steps are the Treasurer and the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Drea) going to take to ensure that people on socially assisted incomes, the people who are working and are still poor, are going to have enough buying power to not only alleviate their own human conditions but to ensure that there is a decent economy in this province?

Does the Treasurer not understand the contraction of their buying power means there is less consumer demand and therefore less production in the province?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I am aware of that last relationship. I am keenly aware that all of us would like to improve the basic economy. I can only say that is one of the things that is preoccupying me and my time very greatly these days, hoping that I can do something to help the economy of this province through the budgetary process.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, could the minister tell us whether the government intends to raise the welfare rate to be at or near the family benefits rate in the province so that the recipients will not be at a level approximately 67 per cent of the poverty line?

Will he also give emergency relief to municipalities that are now having to foot the 20 per cent difference between the federal-provincial funding and the total cost of administering that program?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, my colleague the Minister of Community and Social Services does appear before cabinet from time to time making recommendations on an adequate support level. I can assure the member he will be doing that before too long.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, the Treasurer is avoiding the whole question about what is a poverty line and what is not a poverty line. Is he aware that 42,000 people are on general welfare lists in Toronto alone at the moment and a family of three is expected to live on \$7,380 a year?

With 30,000 people waiting for assisted housing in Metropolitan Toronto because of failure of the government's housing policy, many of those people earning \$7,380 a year in income maintenance are having to pay an average of \$4,512 for a two-bedroom apartment. Would he not agree that is poverty? Would he not accept some responsibility for the failure of the Treas-

sure to fund job creation, housing and income maintenance properly in this province so that people do not have to live in that situation?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I turn the question back to the honourable member and point out that all the attempts taken around the world to solve the problems the way he believes those problems can be solved, do not work.

GO TRANSIT SERVICES

Mr. Cunningham: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Transportation and Communications. Mr. Lou Parsons, chairman of GO Transit, has advised me by mail that full GO rail service will not be extended to Hamilton in the foreseeable future, "due to extraordinary high capital cost."

What is that high capital cost that Mr. Parsons refers to and why is the minister prepared to spend more than \$110 million on a demonstration transportation project up Hamilton Mountain when there is such an obvious need to improve GO rail service between Hamilton and Toronto?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, at this moment I do not have, nor does Mr. Parsons have, a true picture of what the extraordinary capital cost would be to extend full GO train service to Hamilton. We have asked the Canadian National Railway to give us a detailed study of the capital expenditure requirements to extend that service at least as far as Burlington.

As I understand it we have three major obstacles that have to be overcome in getting that additional service at this time. These are the crossings of the Credit River, Oakville Creek and Bronte Creek—three major structures that now limit the number of tracks available for the added service.

We have tried very hard to negotiate with the Canadian National Railway and with Via to get additional trains beyond Oakville. At this stage we have not been able to do so and I do not believe we will be able to until we get the full results of this study the CNR is doing.

3 p.m.

Mr. Samis: Why would the minister choose to inform the estimates committee on June 4, 1976, that this service would be greatly improved within a year and a half? And why does he continue to ignore the needs of a community with a population of somewhere in the area of 400,000 at a time when the Queen Elizabeth Way is so crowded between Hamilton and Toronto?

Hon. Mr. Snow: First of all, Mr. Speaker, we are not ignoring the needs of that large number of people. We are trying to meet those needs in the best and most rational way possible.

The honourable member is talking about the estimates committee of 1976, I think he said. If I recall correctly—and I would have to go back and check dates—we were negotiating at that time with Via Rail. Via Rail has about three trains a day that come through from Hamilton and Burlington at those hours when most commuters are in transit. So we proposed to make an arrangement with Via that would allow Via Rail to accept GO Transit tickets.

The Via Rail fare is more than the GO Transit fare but we were proposing that they accept GO tickets and we would pay the difference because we would not have the extra capital costs and so on. We also proposed that Via join us in the new Burlington station. We thought we were getting along very well.

At the time I made that statement I was quite confident that arrangement was going to be consummated. Eventually Via Rail withdrew from that arrangement and we were not able to make it. If we had, GO Transit passengers would have had the opportunity to ride on the Via train. However Via backed out of the arrangement.

Mr. Samis: In the context of GO expansion, can the minister tell the House when we can expect the decision on GO expansion to either Oshawa or Bowmanville?

Hon. Mr. Snow: I told the House about three weeks ago we have received the report from the CNR on that section of the line between Pickering and Oshawa. We never have considered extending GO rail service beyond Oshawa—at this time at least. We are looking into all the costs now. I expect to be putting the estimates before my colleagues in cabinet in the very near future.

We have the estimates from the CNR. We have to add the other costs of the extra capital equipment: parking lots, stations and so on. I expect to make that presentation to cabinet in the near future.

LAKE SUPERIOR BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Education. Does she think it appropriate the Lake Superior Board of Education should be closing the Schreiber high school campus at this time? It is valued in excess of \$900,000 but they think they can save \$120,000

by closing it. This will necessitate capital expenditures of more than \$1 million, 85 per cent of which is underwritten by the ministry, to accommodate those same students in Terrace Bay.

In light of the issues and directives put out by the ministry, does the minister feel that is an appropriate action to take, given her commitment to monitoring existing properties very closely before she allows them to be abandoned and duplicated elsewhere?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member is well aware that autonomous, duly elected boards of education do not allow me to make suggestions about what they should or should not do in the area in which their responsibility is total under the Education Act, 1974.

The member is suggesting that in Issues and Directions we stated we would be compiling a list of school properties. That activity is going on. However, it is not for the purpose of permitting the minister to interfere directly in the appropriate affairs of the board, but to provide them with information and consultative services which will help them to make appropriate decisions.

That activity is going forward and I remind the member this decision was taken by a duly elected board of education. I think it has been repeated on several occasions. I would suggest clearly to the member that it might be appropriate if he were to meet with the full board and with the local community to discuss this matter rather than meeting only with the dissenting members who are against the decision.

Mr. Stokes: Is the minister not aware I did meet with the majority of the board members in the company of her ministry officials right here in this building as recently as February? Is the minister not aware this same board has asked for capital expenditures in excess of \$4 million to upgrade the schools in that jurisdiction when it is walking away from the best school in the jurisdiction, namely, the one in Schreiber? How does the minister rationalize washing her hands of this whole thing, like Pontius Pilate, when 85 per cent of that \$4 million is going to come from her ministry at a time of austerity and constraint?

Mr. T. P. Reid: That is Portia, not Pontius.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I have a feeling that if the member for Hamilton Centre (Ms. Copps) were to have received that remark she would have suggested it was sexist. I will not make that suggestion to the honourable mem-

ber, but I am not washing my hands of a situation which is within my area of jurisdiction.

I remind the honourable member that the Education Act, approved by all members of this House, states it is the responsibility of locally elected boards to make these decisions. We try to provide information which will help them make the decisions, to provide consultative services through the regional offices, to provide whatever we can to help boards make the best possible decisions.

However, I cannot take responsibility for decisions made totally by a duly elected board of education anywhere in this province. If some members were to suggest this House should overrule decisions taken by a municipal council, I suggest to them that perhaps they might be in equal difficulty if they tried it.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I think the minister misheard my friend. It was not Punchy Pilate he was calling her. Perhaps Portia Pilate would make her happier.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It was Pontius Pilate. I know my bible well enough.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Maybe it was Punchy Pilate.

Mr. Speaker: And now to the supplementary.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, we had a similar problem in my area. Part of the problem with this high school and one in Fort Frances closing was that certain members of the school board were not furnished with the relevant information with which to make a decision. The public, whose children were directly affected, had very little input and little information as to the reasons these schools were being closed.

Mr. Speaker: I am patiently waiting.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Would the minister not agree she has a moral responsibility to ensure the taxpayers at the local level are at least in receipt of the information on which these decisions are made and that she should issue a directive ensuring that be so?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, that was done one year ago last January, as a matter of fact. It was done through a memorandum of considerable length which was sent to every board in the province. It is my understanding certain boards feel that because of their autonomy they do not have to follow that memorandum as carefully as they should. Therefore, there is an amendment in the amendments to the Education Act that I introduced last week which will ensure that regulation must be followed. Most boards are following the directives

given, which spell out clearly the way in which there must be public input into the decision-making process.

When we have been concerned about this, we have asked boards to review that process to ensure that they have done what is supposed to be done under the B memorandum, which is now more than a year old. It is my understanding that the board to which the honourable member refers has carried out to the letter of the memorandum the process which is required.

3:10 p.m.

Mr. Hennessy: On a point of order: In an ordinary rotation, I should have been privileged or at least allowed to ask a supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: There have been sufficient supplementaries. There is only a minute and a half left in question period and I am recognizing the member for Renfrew South.

GAS PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Yakabuski: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Labour and it is in several parts. Is the Minister of Labour aware that at present there is being constructed by TransCanada PipeLines Ltd. a new gas pipeline through eastern Ontario to Cornwall and on into Quebec? Part of this pipeline is passing through the great county of Renfrew.

There is a difficulty though. Is the minister aware that in order for a worker, a machine operator, to obtain employment on that job in Renfrew county, he must belong to either the Teamsters' union, Local 91 in Ottawa, or the Labourers International Union, Local 527 in Ottawa, and that workers must, with the economic conditions as they are, plunk down \$300 to join such union, with no guarantee whatsoever of obtaining employment?

How does the minister think he would feel if something was taking place in his backyard and he did not have an opportunity to work on that project?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I would like to advise the honourable members opposite that I had no forewarning of that question whatsoever. I am aware of the circumstances the member for Renfrew South has brought to my attention. There is a letter on my desk waiting for signature later this afternoon, which will respond to the question.

OPPOSITION ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, I have a point of privilege relating to a call that I made this

morning to the Hamilton office of the Ministry of the Environment. In it, I was advised that in a recent change in policy by the minister, every call from an opposition member relating to affairs in his or her own constituency was to be reported immediately to the minister and no written reports or information could be released to any opposition member without the Good Housekeeping seal of approval from the minister.

That change of policy, I might add, affected only members of both opposition parties and did not affect any government members. I wonder if this two-price system is going to continue to apply with the Speaker's approval?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Actually, it may not be a bad idea, but I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, and the members of this House, that first of all I do not know who the honourable member was talking to in the Hamilton office, but if that is what she was told I can assure her that it is totally and completely false. There has never been any such policy decision on my part. Whoever informed the member is either ill-informed or she might inadvertently be misconstruing what was said. I can assure her that her information is completely incorrect.

It is true, and I think it is prudent on my part, that I have requested, from across the whole of the province from our regional offices, that I be kept posted on a regular basis with regard to any local issues that may be arising, so I can discharge my responsibility and face this House with the best information that can be brought to my attention. At no time have I made, nor do I intend to make, a policy decision such as the member has implied I have made.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, on the same point of privilege: That information came directly from—I am asking the Speaker for a report on the matter; I am not asking the minister.

Mr. Speaker: That is not my responsibility to report. The minister has replied.

Ms. Copps: If the privileges of the opposition are not to have access to information on local riding issues—

Mr. Speaker: With all respect, the minister made it very clear that it was not government policy, and not his policy.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, if that is the case, he is—

Mr. Speaker: I am not arguing with you.

Ms. Copps: On the same point of privilege—

Mr. Speaker: Order. That point of privilege has been disposed of.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: The Minister of Labour made a response earlier today to a point of privilege I raised last week. I am not sure what is going on, but I want to respond and make a point of privilege.

The minister indicated that the investigation of the various 72 violations had been thoroughly investigated. That is not the case, I am sorry. Let me start with that. Very bluntly, it is not the case.

We have checked again, and the union maintains that the inspection did not cover the 72 items. It definitely did not. When it was raised with management at a health and safety committee meeting last Wednesday, the company stated, if the union had any complaint, it should take it up with the ministry. The man who accompanied the company representative asked the ministry's official specifically that the 62 items which the company had communicated to the minister as having been completed, be reviewed, and the inspector refused to look at those items.

I have just one of them, which will substantiate my point of privilege. The day before the ministry inspection, April 1, in regard to the eyewash machine, which was reported to have been rectified and which was taken off the list of instructions for repair, this is what went up on the wall: "Do not use any aluminum brightener until eyewash is repaired in wash bay." That is one of the items that has been checked off as having been repaired, and that is the notice that went up the day before. I suggest to the minister there is something wrong.

If I could make a final point, the man in question in the compensation case the minister talked about is a Mr. Morgan McClay. I have a letter from the union to the effect that Morgan was injured on March 22 when he was struck by a three-inch tallow hose. The cause of the accident was the use of an improper tallow hose instead of a steam line. The accident occurred on March 22. The company reported it on April 7, 16 days later. The act says it must be reported to the director and to the union health and safety committee within four days.

I might just conclude by saying to the minister there have been 26 compensable accidents in a six-month period in that plant, and there are

only 77 employees. Surely there is something wrong in there.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, rather than taking up the time of this House, first with a statement by the member for Sudbury East and then with another statement from me, and then with another from him and another from me, I have a course of action in mind that might resolve this matter. I am sure it will. I am prepared to introduce it tomorrow.

REPORT

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Mr. Treleaven from the standing committee on administration of justice presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bill with certain amendments:

Bill 125, An Act to amend the Children's Law Reform Act.

Your committee begs to report the following bill without amendment:

Bill Pr15, An Act to revive John F. McLennan (Bloor) Limited.

Motion agreed to.

3:20 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: Shall Bill 125 be ordered for third reading?

Ordered for committee of the whole House.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

CITY OF TORONTO 1981 ASSESSMENT COMPLAINTS ACT

Hon. Mr. Ashe moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Leluk, first reading of Bill 60, An Act to provide for the Institution of Complaints for Certain Assessments made in the Year 1981 in the City of Toronto.

Motion agreed to.

FRONTIER COLLEGE ACT

Mrs. Scrivener moved, seconded by Mr. J. A. Taylor, first reading of Bill Pr9, An Act respecting Frontier College.

Motion agreed to.

PLANNING AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Philip moved, seconded by Mr. R. F. Johnston, first reading of Bill 61, An Act to amend the Planning Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes municipal councils to refuse to issue demolition permits for the demolition of buildings containing six or more dwelling units, as long as a statute of Ontario providing for mandatory rent review remains in effect.

Tourist establishments, unsafe buildings and buildings whose coverage is 50 per cent or less of the applicable maximum residential density are exempted.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Speaker, I welcome this opportunity to make my contribution to the throne speech debate.

The speech was an insult to the people of Ontario, and I suggest to all the ministers who have left the House that they should keep their squawk boxes on because they may have many chances during the afternoon to sue me for libel and so on.

Mr. Nixon: You are safe in here.

Mr. Sargent: I am safe in here? I will say it outside the chamber any time they want to go to bat. After 20 years in this House when sometimes we see the donkeys over there thumping their desks, I think of the story about Lady Godiva riding naked on a horse through the streets of Coventry. She was riding side-saddle and half the crowd was yelling, "Hurray for our side." All they do over there is shout, "Hurray for our side."

Much of the content of the throne speech is debatable and obnoxious. The excellent media in my area of Grey-Bruce—the Owen Sound Sun Times, CFOS radio and CKNX television—are all excellent purveyors of the news and people are fully informed of what a fraud we have down here as a government. Their news content and especially the radio editorials on CFOS, although they are totally nonpolitical, often take the government apart for its lack of concern for the people of Ontario.

This morning, one million Canadians woke up with no job to go to and no hope for one. There are 143,000 youths walking the streets with no job creation programs in place and no hope of their getting jobs. I am going to lay it on

the line for the record and say that I would be ashamed to be a member of the government because of what it is doing and has done to the people of this province.

I would like to set the stage for my never-ending desire to reveal to Ontario the record as I have seen it, along with the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) and other veterans of this party such as the member for Perth (Mr. Edighoffer), the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell), the member for Wellington South (Mr. Worton) and the brilliant member for Windsor-Walkerville (Mr. Newman).

We have seen this thing evolve to a situation where the leader of the Conservative Party has a more disgraceful record than that of Richard Nixon in the United States. Watergate is peanuts compared to Hydrogate and all the goings-on in the past 20 years.

While our economy is in its biggest nosedive ever in our lifetime, while hundreds of thousands of Ontario fathers wake up every morning with no job to go to and no hope there will be one, we have been ruining our most important line of defence against poverty.

The government across the aisle is run by a select group of people who have been feeding at the trough for 35 years. They have been plundering the public Treasury for themselves and their friends.

I hope the Premier (Mr. Davis) will hear this and the public will get what I am trying to say. The Premier does not set the policy for this House; it is set by a think-tank. We read about how often they meet at the Park Plaza Hotel to see what is going to happen during the House sittings. They met in Kingston about three weeks ago and all the big names in Ontario, the heart of the establishment, were there wondering how they could cut up the pie to look after the establishment.

The Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) said in his speech at the time of the opening of the House that Mr. Trudeau has a planned program of chaos for Canada and the people of Ontario. Let us have a look at the chaos caused by this government during the past two decades. I have said before that the Premier, his party and the think-tank could be charged with fiscal debauchery. Let us look at the record.

The television program 60 Minutes, which is on every Sunday night, would have a ball here in Ontario. Why does Morton Shulman not get on to what is going on here? He knows the back-

ground. Does he have too many friends in the establishment?

3:30 p.m.

The story of Watergate was built around the theme of the President's men. All the Premier's friends and the Tory party's friends have put this province into a nosedive.

Take a look at the personnel of this think-tank. Every time we open the House all the big people who get all the contracts for Hydro and roadbuilding come and sit in the centre there. That is the picture of them coming. It is in effect parallel to kissing the hands of the Godfather, because they have been feeding at this public trough. They have been lining their pockets for 35 years, and they do not stop. They pass it on to their children—it is like having tickets to Maple Leaf Gardens; you put them in your will and they pass along—and so the children of the establishment carry on getting the goodies as part of their estate.

What we need in Ontario is a news media SWAT team, a special investigation team, but there is really no Ben Bradlee of the Washington Post to show how much we are being screwed and tattooed here.

On the public accounts committee we have the Tories, who are not there to view the public accounts but who are there as obstructionists. That is their main function: to obstruct and block the viewing of the things that could come to light and embarrass the government.

If I may, I will add a bit of background here. My first acquaintance with such goings-on was shocking. I had a \$50,000 cancelled cheque made payable to the Conservative Party which was arranged by Mr. Kelly, the bagman. He had arranged this from a company called Fidinam. They could not pay a \$1,500 bill. The year before their gross sales were \$25,000, but by paying the \$50,000 cheque to the Tory party they got a \$20-million contract, with no tenders called, to build the Workmen's Compensation Board building. They also got a \$15-million loan.

When I produced this \$50,000 cancelled cheque in the House, and the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) was here, I was booted out of the House about that one. That was investigated, but they had enough Tories on the committees and so they whitewashed the whole deal.

This was an unknown company. Now Fidinam is a giant corporation. They got a good start because they gave \$50,000 to the Tory party. This is all documented in the press. It would be

interesting to bring out a television series of 13 weekly documentaries to show the scandals of this government over the years. Anyway, the Fidinam people are quite happy.

We remember the story about the Premier and Gerhardt Moog going to Germany to arrange funds for the Moog and Davis hotel over here, the Hydro building.

Mr. Stokes: The Taj Mahal.

Mr. Sargent: The Taj Mahal. They got into some wine over there, and the Premier went to one end of the room and Moog discussed the funds at the other end of the room in German and they came back with the funds to build a building. But there were no tenders called. What happened? Don Smith of Ellis-Don Ltd. blew the whistle on them, and they had a big investigation. Members know what happened. As always, there were enough Tories on the thing to give it another whitewash. So it goes on.

We had the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education building, the \$20-million educational building built up here. That was given to Mr. Moog, with no tender on the deal at all. They did not call for tenders because he was a friend of the Premier's. In fact, I think he was a legal adviser, although the Premier is a lawyer himself. It was a \$20-million contract.

We have Phil Givens, who was a member of the Liberal Party; he was promised a judgeship if he would not contest his seat.

Mr. Martel: Was he really?

Mr. Sargent: A member of the New Democratic Party was kicked out because he said that, but I know it is a fact.

I have had conversations with the principals involved. He was promised a judgeship by Eddie Goodman if he would not stand in that seat.

Mr. Stokes: What about Vern Singer?

Mr. Sargent: He got a \$25,000 cheque from Mr. Moog to act for him. Mr. Moog had Mr. Singer looked after. We will pass that one, because I was sued for \$500,000 by Mr. Singer for that one. But we finally got it swept under the table.

An hon. member: One drink here and there.

The Deputy Speaker: I hate to bring up the topic but I am not sure whether the honourable member indicated that a member of this House had actually bought his seat. The member did not say that, did he?

Mr. Sargent: I did not say that. I would not say that.

The former mayor of Etobicoke told me the

biggest scandal he had seen in politics over the years was the parkway belt deal in which a piece of land was involved. Ontario Hydro was building a line, and Cadillac Fairview owned about 10 acres of the land. They got \$1 million for those 10 acres because they steered the right way. It was Ed Horton, a former mayor of Etobicoke, who told me that. He eventually died. But one could not get to the bottom of that, because one cannot find these things out in government.

At the outset I would say I am not taking a shot at the new back-benchers in the Tory party. I think they have done good jobs or they would not be here. As ombudsmen for our people, I think we do a great job as members of the Legislature. It is a continuing source of enjoyment for me, because I do love the contact and doing things for people even though I am in opposition.

Many of the new back-benchers are involved in the people business and have been in public office for many years. They all knew the difference between right and wrong when they came in here. I give them full marks. Many of them would not be here if they were not totally honourable people. I am not suggesting for a moment that the Premier or his party is dishonest, but they are part of a crooked machine. If they were operating in the United States, many of them would be in jail because of a conflict of interest. But that is not the law up here.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: What?

Mr. Sargent: I challenge the minister to challenge anything I have said in my speech. I will go to jail if I am not right. I will back that up.

Mr. Riddell: Is the member saying the Big Blue Machine is crooked?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That's balderdash.

Mr. Sargent: This is how they operate. They have the largest cabinet in the free world. There is no state in America that has a cabinet like that; the federal government does not have a cabinet as big as this one.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It certainly is bigger. Can't you count yet?

Mr. Sargent: But on top of that, this government has 30 assistants. So they all get looked after.

The minister should not talk, with the Taj Mahal she has down there. One walks around on about two inches of carpet to get near her place. She has three or four secretaries; she needs them like a hole in the head. McKeough had an

office like hers and it cost him \$70,000 to furnish it. God knows what this minister's cost.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I have one secretary.

Mr. Sargent: Let us look at these cabinet ministers. They get about \$63,000 a year now.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I do not.

Mr. Sargent: Maybe the minister does not. Maybe she gets about what she is worth—about \$50,000. I should not have said that. Her skates are a bit dull, that's all.

But they get \$63,000 first. Then they get all the perks; they get the living allowance, limousines and trips around the world. And here we have the Minister of Health (Mr. Grossman), who is a lawyer, criticizing the doctors.

When they are through with this business, every one of the members opposite, even though they are back-benchers, will get a pension; they will get \$30,000-a-year pensions if they are cabinet ministers, and they will get \$55,000-a-year jobs as heads of commissions.

3:40 p.m.

We have all the old guys—every one of them. There is the Minister of Health's father, who is making \$85,000, and there is Wishart—they are making \$85,000 a year all down the line. And here we have the Minister of Health talking about the doctors and the money they are making.

Mr. Andrewes: How about Bryce Mackasey?

Mr. Eakins: Larry is spending \$100,000 on his office.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Look at your federal Liberals and about 12 members of the Liberal cabinet.

Mr. Ruprecht: It's wrong, no matter who does it, to spend \$100,000 on somebody's office.

Mr. Riddell: Two wrongs don't make a right, Bette.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Larry is not doing that. He said so.

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Speaker, you should call her out of order.

The Deputy Speaker: I was going to, but your own colleagues were engaged; I was just waiting for you to start up again.

Mr. Sargent: We have \$7 billion in pension funds in Ontario, but there is not a nickel left in any of them. The government has raided \$7 billion that was not its money. It's all down the drain.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is not true.

Mr. Nixon: It is, Bette. You took all the Canada pension plan funds, all the poor teachers' superannuation funds—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Robert, you know better than that.

Mr. Nixon: You spent it all.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: You know better than that.

Mr. Nixon: You spent it. That's the truth.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Grey-Bruce has the floor.

Mr. Sargent: Thank you very much. We have had the name of the Premier come up quite often in the Campbell Grant report on the harbour scandals in Hamilton. They got Campbell Grant to study and make a report on the whole mess down there. A number of times he mentioned "the Premier and the bagman Kelly" as being involved.

For five or six years now we have been trying to get the Premier to release the Campbell Grant report, but he says it is not expeditious for him to do it at this time. I do not know what you call it when the term runs out, but he is going to keep saying that for seven years and then it will be dead. I do not know what will happen, but he has that one pretty well covered up.

We have things like the Reed Paper scandal. We found out by accident one time that this government, through one minister, was going to give away to a paper company, Reed Paper, a tract of land bigger than the area of Switzerland. They were surprised we found that out. We blocked that one.

They had another one up north where they were going to spend \$70 million on a magic mountain 200 miles north of Sudbury. We blocked that one.

Mr. Riddell: Can't stand the heat in the kitchen, Bette?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes, I can. I just happen to have a meeting. Do you want to come?

Mr. Nixon: No way.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I would be delighted to take you to the meeting.

Mr. Sargent: Would you like to speak for a while, Bette?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, Eddie, you go ahead. But please use the English language just a little more carefully.

Mr. Sargent: Keep your squawk-box on.

Mr. Eakins: There's not a minister in the House. Let the record show that.

Mr. Sargent: Oh, they have their boxes on, I think.

We have Darcy McKeough; he was the Treasurer. Then we have the wife of the president of Chrysler who was involved in a housing deal in London. She was faced with \$600,000 in tax to pay. Darcy hit her at a cocktail party and told her he would fix the tax so she would not have to pay the \$600,000.

What happened? Because we criticized the fact that his cocktail chatter cost us, the taxpayers, \$600,000, to give this wealthy lady's money back to her, we were called into court. The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk, the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson) and I were summonsed to court about two or three days before the election. We were made to look the bad guys because we criticized them. That is the way this government operates.

Now McKeough is president of Union Gas. He is pretty cosy when they are coming in for these rate increases. He is in a good spot for these rate increases. Since he got that appointment, he is now a director of dozens of companies; he has directorships all over the place. They tell me that his entry in Who's Who is about seven inches long.

We have the Suncor situation, a real gangbuster. The headlines read, "How did Davis Keep This Secret?" The head of the largest government in Canada, outside of the feds, had it in his back pocket when the House opened. No one knew about it. The Deputy Minister of Energy, a guy named Tom Kierans, set the deal up for McLeod Young Weir, and there was supposed to be a one per cent or \$6-million commission paid. But they decided there would not be any commission.

Our friend Kierans, whose office is in the same building as the Sun office—the worst dog of an oil company in the country; they could not peddle it for eight years—made a deal in the washroom there.

Interjection.

Mr. Sargent: Well, that is the story they quoted in the paper. They made a deal in the washroom, and they put through a deal for us to kick in \$650 million. Mr. Kierans is the \$6-million man. Now he is president of McLeod Young Weir. That is a real friend of the government.

The beautiful part of this is that 98 per cent of the company's shares were owned by the parent company in Philadelphia. They were not on the

market, they had no value, so how would one establish that we would pay \$650 million for a 25 per cent interest in something we have no say whatsoever in operating?

The Premier brings this into the House, and the government puts it through. This is not the government talking; this is the think-tank. The men who control the party put this into motion using my money, the taxpayers' money, to make deals for their friends. What is going on here is only the tip of the iceberg.

John White, the former Treasurer, had a dream that one day he was going to build a city of 500,000 people in Haldimand-Norfolk. He had access to the funds, because he was the Treasurer. He had 25 secret meetings with, I think it was, the vice-president of LePage. They got the rights and made a decision that they would get a \$5-million commission to handle the land deals there. But there was no piece of paper, no contract at all. How was it arrived at? No one knew.

The deal went through. We spent about \$60 or \$90 million over there, and LePage got their \$5-million commission, with nothing on paper to back it, no contract whatsoever. I asked the Premier if he knew about the secret meetings. He said, "Are you challenging the character of John White?" I said: "What the hell are you talking about? I asked you a question: Did you know about their secret meetings?" He said, "If I knew about them, they would not be a secret, would they?" The people of Ontario must know what is going on down here.

Now Mr. Kierans is top of the heap as head of McLeod Young Weir. They have our \$650 million, and they paid \$78 million of our money in dividends to the head office in Philadelphia. They did not tell us about that. That deal is going to cost the people of Ontario \$2.4 billion. That is a fact.

Mr. Boudria: That's enough to make a Tory cross the floor.

Mr. Andrewes: Is there a vacancy over there?
3:50 p.m.

Mr. Sargent: The people of my area have an ongoing concern regarding agriculture. We are 49th out of 51 counties, at the bottom of the pile in so far as the wants of our people and farm income are concerned. Three per cent of our children get to university, against six per cent through the rest of the province.

I have been offered the chance to go across there, but I could never face my people after more than 20 years of support, even though I

was offered a hospital in the riding if I would quit my job. I said, "Yes, I would quit my job for a hospital." They did not come through. I called their bluff on it.

The fact is that Ontario is the only province that is not looking after its farmers. We get \$358 million a year from Ottawa for agricultural purposes. All we spend in Ontario is \$181 million. The government takes that agricultural money and puts it into its general fund for squandering on other things. But that money belongs to the people of Ontario as far as the farmers are concerned. Ontario and Prince Edward Island are the only provinces that do not have a program of loans for farmers. I think that is scandalous in view of what is going on.

Many members will recall the many times I have talked in the House about the uranium contracts. Bob Macaulay is the man who set up the first Department of Energy. He became counsel for the Ontario Energy Board, and his legal fees for one year were \$176,000. This same Macaulay is a brother of the present chairman of Hydro. This man is now involved in the biggest expansion of nuclear power in the world.

If I know nothing else in my lifetime, I want to say we should be ashamed of ourselves for what we are doing in the nuclear field. In the United States there are more than 70 nuclear plants. Many are only half built and are being scrapped because they are financial disasters. But here in Ontario last year, with a \$14-billion debt, we were offering to build a new multibillion-dollar nuclear plant in Darlington to sell power to the United States cheaper than Hydro will sell it to us here in Canada.

Mr. Macaulay says this is a good deal. They are going to build a pipeline across Lake Erie. That pipeline is going to cost about \$6 billion, we are told—we do not know how much it is going to cost—but he says it is going to make Ontario a profit of \$100 million a year. There was a story by Tom Claridge in the *Globe and Mail* within the past month. It quoted Mr. Sims, the head of the firm in the States that is going to buy this power. He denied the fact they are going to buy the power. He said he had read of proposals by the Canadians to build nuclear plants dedicated to export to the United States, but in closing he said, "They would have a gambler's interest to put up the money in the hope that the power would be saleable."

There is no agreement to sell hydro to General Public Utilities in the United States. He is flying his kite here and building Darlington,

something we need like a hole in the head. We now have a 40 per cent surplus in power and it is going to cost us \$9 billion. The experience across America and around the world in building nuclear plants shows that they cost more than five times what they started with. That could cost us \$20 billion on top of a \$6-million pipeline, whatever figure they are talking about. We must be the stupidest people in the world to let this go on without a plebiscite.

I asked the Premier in the House about the energy situation and about what he was going to do about the contract with Denison Mines. These two contracts with Denison have a \$7-billion gross price. The minehead price of uranium at the start was \$1 per pound. They made a cartel deal to sell this for between \$40 and \$60 per pound. The headlines we read today say that Ontario Hydro pays \$500 million more to buy uranium from Denison. Uranium mines out west in Saskatchewan closed down because they could not sell their uranium for \$32 per pound. Yet from now until the year 2010 we are locked into a price of between \$40 and \$60 per pound. I think the former Minister of Energy knows what I am talking about.

We not only gave them this contract; we also said to them: "We will give you a \$2-billion guaranteed profit. Whether you win or lose, you are assured of a \$2 billion-a-year profit." Is that not just dandy? The land it is on is owned by the province but is leased to them for \$7,000 a year. We gave them this contract, a contract of a size unheard of in the whole free world with those terms, and we said, "That's all right."

The background is that we now have four firms which have been indicted in the federal courts for criminal activities in this field, and we gave them a \$650-million advance, an interest-free loan for 40 years. The interest factor on this alone is \$2 billion on the loan.

The Premier does not want to talk about it. I say to everyone who is within the sound of my voice or who reads Hansard, there must be very powerful interests involved if the Premier will not discuss it or the renegotiation of such a scandalous contract when the people of Ontario are now having their lights cut off because they cannot pay their hydro bills.

We have a piece of land worth \$7,000 giving Steve Roman and his gang a \$2-billion profit, and we have a \$650-million interest-free loan. He takes that money, goes down to Australia and buys uranium mines there with our interest-free money. The Premier does not want to discuss it.

If I can find my notes here, we have in the agreement the permission and the power to renegotiate it. Westinghouse in the United States was in the same bind. This giant, world-wide corporation was going to go down the tube because of its commitments in this cartel contract. If it had been forced to deliver uranium at that price, it would have gone bankrupt. It went to the Supreme Court. It challenged and fought it in the courts. I have three or four books at home on how it fought the government and what it fought it on. I have said repeatedly to the Premier in this House that any court in the land would agree to cancel these scandalous contracts.

4 p.m.

This folly of Hydro is digging a big hole for all of us. We had a project up in the Bruce—the minister may know about this one—that was going to cost \$280 million. The final cost was \$880 million. We have Mr. Taylor writing his letters every day in the *Globe and Mail* and in the *Toronto Star*, doing his own PR job, telling what a good guy he is and what a good job Hydro does, and all the time people all over the world believe our nuclear program is deadly.

We have acres and acres of spent fuel rods up in our area. They have no idea what they are going to do with them. They put them in swimming pools. They cannot demothball Three Mile Island and if the life of a nuclear plant is 30 years, how are they going to demothball Douglas Point? What happens if there is an earthquake or if there is a war? What are they doing to hit first? The fact is they do not know where they are going. They say maybe 10 or 15 years down the line they may find some good granite rock someplace to bury these fuel rods. The only end use for those things is plutonium. Plutonium is the most powerful explosive in the world. That is its only end use.

We have billions of dollars of our money being used by a government which I think, and I feel members must agree, is being run by a think-tank. Eddie Goodman has always been the counsel for Cadillac-Fairview. When I started here, Cadillac-Fairview was a very ordinary, minor company and now it is one of the largest companies in North America. I know they got a lot of their financial support from the Treasury, from the people of Ontario. No one can deny that.

The hydro rates of 75,000 senior citizens are going to suffer this winter. I tried to get a lifeline bill through the House to give a flat rate for hydro to senior citizens and people on the low

end of the social scale, but the government laughed at it and turned it down. It is in force in a number of states in the United States and the NDP supports it, but we cannot get enough support in the House to pass it.

This business we are in is doing things for people; not just a select group, friends of the government, the establishment, but it is for all of the people of Ontario. This is not the government's money, it is only in trust. I think they are doing a disgraceful job of handling it.

We have this Minister of Health playing politics with the doctors. That is all he is doing it for. What the hell is a bit of money here when the government can spend \$2.4 billion on an oil company? The most important thing in our lives is the health of our people and it is a fraud if the government takes people's money for OHIP and does not deliver the service to them.

The minister can do it. I got a letter the other day from a lawyer. A property I owned was two months in arrears. The lawyer, writing on behalf of a trust company, said: "You are now two months in arrears. We are going to put it under power of sale. Enclosed please find my bill for \$500 for this letter." This lawyer gets \$500 for sending me a letter, and this minister—who is a lawyer, I guess—is telling a doctor, who works for probably 100 hours a week, how much he can charge.

It took the doctors 11 years to get where they are. I have many doctor friends and they do not earn their money. The minister is playing politics with a very dangerous thing, and the government members have the audacity to support such goings-on. Why would he do it if it was not politics? What the hell is \$100 million to the government? It is our money. It is our health system.

People are being refused hospital beds. My mother died in the hall of our hospital. She could not get a bed. For 20 years I have been promised a hospital and I cannot get one, and then there is this hanky-panky here where he is saying he is going to "negotiate."

Doctors have the right in a free enterprise system to get paid for service. Does anyone ever tell us what an accountant makes or question his charges? Can one tax an accountant's bill? A lawyer's bill can be taxed, but if so they will make a revision and give it back. Don't let the lawyers tell me about what the doctors should have.

Mr. Laughren: Yes, the lawyers are the ones who are overpaid.

Mr. Sargent: I say to the members of the government that they will have the total support of 7,999,000 people if they will renegotiate the uranium contracts and give these people back the billions of dollars which are committed for the future.

I could speak at length but I think I have gone over my time limit here. The time has come when the people should know what is going on. Someone has said, "You cannot hope to change the whole world but you can change the corner in which you live." I give the members my word that is what I have been trying to do.

I apologize to the members of the government if I have embarrassed them, but that is the way I feel. After 20 years, it is a hopeless situation to have them sit there and sneer at us. Their arrogance is unbelievable. They milk their rights, their perks; they go past us in their big limousines and it is getting hard to take. People think they are nice guys. I say they may be, but the think tank that runs them is using them because they are only pawns.

I am sorry to have taken so long but I thank you for the chance to say a few words in this throne speech debate, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Speaker, the first thing I want to do is commend you, and Mr. Speaker Turner, and the Deputy Chairman, for the dedication you have applied, collectively, to your responsibilities as the presiding officers of this House. Having been there I can fully appreciate that it is not an easy task. It is one where, in most instances, if you satisfy 50 per cent of the people at any given time, you are doing a pretty good job.

It is, however, the most important job that anybody can take on in an assembly such as this. As my honourable friend the member for Perth (Mr. Edighoffer) can attest to, the kind of activities that you three gentlemen involve yourselves in strikes at the very heart of parliamentary democracy and what this place is all about.

It is the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario. It is not the government of Ontario. It is a collection of 125 members dedicated to the future social, economic, cultural and, we hope, at times spiritual wellbeing of the 8.5 million people in the province for whom we have the privilege of speaking.

4:10 p.m.

It is not an easy task. I hope that as all three of you gain more experience in your collective responsibilities you will not lose sight of the fact

that you are here to protect the rights of all members of this assembly in a democratic process, and that we are not the government of Ontario, although a good many of the items we deal with on a day-to-day basis are a result of our reaction to initiatives taken by the government.

It is our individual and collective responsibility to provide the best kind of lifestyle for the people of the province and it is to be hoped we will have a little left over to exercise our collective responsibility to help those in the world community of nations who are less fortunate.

Until most recent vintage, we have been perhaps the most affluent province in the wealthiest country on the face of the earth. When we look at the tremendous strides and advances made by Japan, with a population of 117 million and virtually no resources of its own, to become the second largest economy in the free world, and at the economic success it has enjoyed over the last 10 to 15 years, notwithstanding OPEC 1 and OPEC 2, it is the envy of us all.

The economic problems we discuss in this assembly on a regular basis are to some extent based on our inability to compete with nations such as Japan and some of the more advanced nations of western Europe. One has only to look around to find out that nations such as Singapore and Korea are finding their place in the sun based to a large extent upon their ability to import raw materials, a good many of them from countries such as Canada, convert them into saleable manufactured products and send them back to us with value added.

The Sergeant at Arms is not here. He is visiting his wife in hospital. Just a few hours ago she delivered their second son. I understand both of them are doing well and I am sure I express the sentiments of all members of the assembly when I wish Mr. Stelling, his wife and the new arrival the very best of everything for the future.

In connection with the throne speech, I sat here reasonably quietly the day it was given and listened to His Honour, the representative of Her Majesty in this assembly, in a lengthy dissertation which some might refer to as a tirade. I am very sensitive about the nature of this place and how we use it at every opportunity available to put our individual and collective points of view across. I wonder what the outcome would be if a throne speech like that had been placed in the hands of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in Westminster and we had said, "You read that in the Mother of Parlia-

ments; that is the perception of your government and that is what we propose to do during the next year over in Westminster."

Placing that in the Ontario context, I invite all honourable members of this House to return to the throne speech for 15 or 20 minutes of quiet reflection to see whether or not they think it is an appropriate use of the office of the Lieutenant Governor of this province to take on an exercise in fed bashing. I personally do not think it is an appropriate use of a vice-regal office. I think some of the language contained in the throne speech was extremely provocative. Whoever offered it and whoever authorized it might want to go back to it and reflect upon that for a moment.

I say that in the context of what I was trying to say earlier. You, Mr. Speaker, have a responsibility as a presiding officer, along with the the Deputy Speaker and the Deputy Chairman, to be impartial, nonpartisan and nonpolitical while carrying out your duties and responsibilities in the chair. You desire to be fair, firm, impartial and consistent.

4:20 p.m.

Perhaps I am overly sensitive about the role of someone like yourself or someone like the Lieutenant Governor, Her Majesty's representative in this province. Since it bothered me sitting there on the day that the throne speech was read, I thought I had a responsibility to say publicly what troubled me privately. All members should go back and reread the throne speech, put themselves in the position of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor of this province and make their own assessment or their own judgement as to whether or not it was an appropriate thing to do.

I want to thank all members of the House who are here this afternoon. I know a good deal of what is said in a contribution to the throne debate, for very obvious reasons, is parochial in nature and perhaps it could be said it is political in the sense that it makes good reading back home.

Most of the items I want to address this afternoon are centred on events, happenings in northern Ontario, because basically and primarily that is my job. But I do not do it in the political sense. I do not do it in the partisan sense because a good many of the members, some of them here for the first time, have not had the opportunity to acquire an overview of what is going on in Ontario. I am sure many of them have had some very short and brief business excursions to parts of the province

other than those they represent. I am sure many of them have had an opportunity to have a short vacation in northern Ontario, but that is not the real northern Ontario.

Members will recall that during question period a little over an hour ago, I asked a question of the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) concerning the closure of a high school in my riding and my home town. I spent the Easter weekend meeting with the town council, with the study committee that is set up in association with any closure of a high school that has to take place under the Education Act in Ontario. I met with a variety of concerned citizens, including members of the clergy.

The letter to the Minister of Education, which I think I made available to all members of this assembly, was a fair and an accurate assessment of the situation. They were not my figures and statistics. They were not the figures and the statistics of the Lake Superior Board of Education. Those were statistics that were provided to me by the Ministry of Education. Everybody in the township of Schreiber, whether Liberal, Conservative or New Democrat, is of one mind about the action the school board has taken.

I want to report to those here this afternoon that I deliberately, and I make no bones about it, consulted with my friend and colleague the member for Rainy River (Mr. T. P. Reid), to make him aware of what was going on. I deliberately involved the member for Fort William (Mr. Hennessy) in what was going on.

It is a political issue, but it is not a partisan issue. The member for Rainy River got involved by asking a supplementary and was happy to do so. The member for Fort William tried to get involved and was happy to do so. I think it was of sufficient importance to the people in northern Ontario generally that it warranted a second supplementary from a member on the government benches who feels strongly enough about events in the north.

Honourable members know that whenever anything happens of major significance and import in a northern community, such as losing something as important, as central and as pivotal as a high school, it lessens our ability to attract professionals such as doctors, dentists and other people with special skills whom we are trying to attract, on a regular basis, to these northern communities.

The first questions one asks are: "Do you have a hospital? Do you have a high school? Do you have recreational facilities? Do you have

reasonably good shopping facilities?" We who live in the north are asked those questions continually by people with special skills who want to come in to work and live and enjoy the lifestyle that we have in these northern communities.

I do not want to be overly dramatic about this whole thing. But I think all members realize what happens to a town such as Schreiber, with a population of about 2,000 people, which was there long before a community such as Terrace Bay, Marathon, or Manitouwadge was even thought of.

The township of Schreiber has been there since the year 1885. Members must realize what happens to any community in Ontario when one takes away something as important as its high school.

What was the board's rationale for making that decision? It was on the basis that it might save \$120,000 a year, in a school jurisdiction where the administrative cost for operating that jurisdiction, spread over a distance of 120 miles, is in the order of \$365,000. That is the administrative cost.

If the administrative cost was reduced by one third, one would have the \$120,000 the board hopes to save. But what is it going to do? It is going to walk away from the best high school in the whole district. Do not take my word for it; ask the board itself, ask the appraisers who were brought in to assess the worth of those buildings, ask the architects who have been engaged to make that kind of judgement. They will tell you the very school the board is scrapping, locking the doors on and walking away from, is insured at the present time for \$885,000.

4:30 p.m.

Appraisers were brought in to tell the board what the school would be worth on the open market if it were not used for educational purposes. An appraisal company from the city of Thunder Bay said, "Well, you know, the first thing you must do is offer it to another board." The only other board in the area that conceivably might be interested in this facility is the North of Superior District Roman Catholic Separate School Board, and I doubt very much if that board wants it.

So the appraisers said if it did not continue to be used as a school building, the appraised value for any other purpose was \$32,000. That is what the board could expect to get for it, or at least ask for it, if it were to be used for anything other than educational purposes. The appraisers further went on to say that if the building could not

be disposed of, the only alternative would be to demolish it and that would cost \$16,000, to ready it for a subdivision.

This Minister of Education is saying the decision that has been taken is strictly a local decision, and school boards are autonomous and can live by any decision of that nature. But I wonder if this board can live by that, having heard the admission of people within the Ministry of Education and a member of an architectural firm by the name of Critchley in North Bay, in the riding of my colleague the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris). He said in regard to the school they are moving to, "If you are going to accommodate the high school students who will be taken out of Schreiber and moved to Terrace Bay, the first thing you must do is spend in excess of \$900,000, just to save \$120,000 a year."

I sought out the advice of specialists in the Ministry of Education and asked, "Would you mind telling me what the order of priority is for capital expenditures within the Lake Superior Board of Education?" They said, "Let us look." I checked last Thursday and rechecked again today just before question period to make sure I was entirely accurate in what I was saying.

The first priority for capital expenditures for the Lake Superior Board of Education is an application to this ministry to spend \$570,000 to upgrade the secondary high school in Manitouwadge and \$850,000 to upgrade portions of the elementary school in Manitouwadge.

The second priority, according to the Ministry of Education, is to close the high school in Marathon and put an addition on the existing public school in Marathon to accommodate the high school students, spending a sum of money in the order of \$350,000.

Third, they have requested a sum of \$183,000 for repairs to the roofs of the school buildings, for dust collectors for various schools within the jurisdiction and to replace a boiler in one of the schools.

There are three other priorities I was not able to get a handle on. Number seven on the list of priorities is a request for \$900,000 for capital funds to improve the high school campus in Terrace Bay which is going to accommodate the Schreiber students. They have yet to make application in a realistic way. It is seventh on their list of priorities. They made a decision last Wednesday night to phase out the school. I have said to the Minister of Education, I have said to the board and I say to all members of this House, where are we going to put those students?

The only response I could get was they think they can go to the bank and borrow between \$150,000 and \$200,000 to buy portables to stick up on the parking lot or the playing field to accommodate the Schreiber school children in Terrace Bay. They hope to accomplish that by Labour Day 1982.

The Ministry of Education said this was local autonomy and democracy at its best. I have enumerated the expenditures and the list of priorities as outlined by the the Lake Superior Board of Education. I want to ask all members of this House where and how we are going to accommodate these kids; so much for local autonomy.

I want to report to members of this House that only about four of the 14 members of the board have much more than a year of experience with the administration of schools.

Mr. Nixon: How many from the Schreiber area?

Mr. Stokes: Two.

Mr. Nixon: Of the 14?

Mr. Stokes: Yes.

Mr. Nixon: That's great local autonomy.

Mr. Stokes: One member of the board happens to be a brother of my colleague the member for Rainy River. His name is Mike Reid. Let me tell you something about this board. I do not want to be board bashing, but I want to let the members know the dilemma under which some of the school board trustees operate.

They made a simple request. They said if we wished to economize, one of the most obvious places to look was the administration of the board.

4:40 p.m.

I met with all of these groups at one o'clock last Saturday and I happened to have the figures of what it cost to operate that school board—\$60,000 a year plus expenses. I enumerated what it cost. I may have been out a few percentage points because those emoluments are adjusted from time to time, but I was able to put down before them a sum of \$335,000, plus something just in excess of \$30,000 for expenses: the rental of cars, travel expenses, overnight expenses and things of that nature. But in fairly accurate terms it is \$365,000.

There were four members of the board at this meeting. They said, "Where did you get those figures?" I said, "I got them from the board office. Why do you ask?" They said, "We have

been trying to get those figures"—and they are members of the board—"for several months because we have been charged with the responsibility of coming up with some kind of reaction to the targeting of this school for closure."

The board members could not even get the costs of administering the jurisdiction they were responsible for. Any time they asked, the office told them, "We really don't want to make those figures public but what we can tell you is the last adjustment was an increase of . . ." some percentage points—maybe eight per cent or 10 per cent.

If any member here has attended a board meeting he knows that at each meeting they have to approve expenses and disbursements. They usually go over it in committee and then when they come to the regular board meeting they are in a position to deal with it all very expeditiously. But they are given a sum for expenditures and disbursements of maybe \$550,000. One of the board members says, "All right, but what is this all for? How do you break it down?" The officials say, "Really, it is not appropriate to ask that kind of question because the money has already been spent; so just approve that amount of money."

It is a hell of a way to run a store. I can really agonize with these young school board members, some of whom have been on the board three months, some six months, some just in excess of one year. The majority of the board members say, "Really, you do not want to burden this board with all of those details; just take the word of the administrator that everything is fine and dandy; just vote 'aye.'" That is what they do.

I do not want to be unkind to our Minister of Education. I guess maybe I was a bit unkind when I likened her to Pontius Pilate and only because it is the Easter season. But it really disturbs me to hear a minister of the crown say, "That is democracy at its finest: economy and autonomy."

It is not economy. The minister might believe in autonomy and say she is just there to sign the cheques. But we are going to walk away from a million-dollar building and are going to replace it with a million-dollar expenditure down the road. She is going to be asked to sign the cheques for capital expenditures in excess of \$4 million.

Mr. Nixon: Because the director thinks it is a good idea.

Mr. Stokes: Yes. I just want to appeal to all members of this House to assess the position of

the member for Lake Nipigon who has the responsibility to represent the people in the township of Schreiber. I have a responsibility to report to the people in the House collectively that their money is not being well spent because, regardless of who makes the decision and when the decision is made, it is going to cost us. We are not going to save money by it. We are not going to save this \$120,000 a year.

I hope I am not betraying a confidence, but when I heard about this on Wednesday night, at the first opportunity I went over and I apprised the Minister of Education and Colleges and Universities of it. Our colleague the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier) was sitting beside her and, of course, it was sort of a three-way conversation. The Minister of Northern Affairs said, "No school, no high school anywhere in Ontario should close for a consideration of \$120,000." I happen to think he is right. I hope the members agree with me.

I want to get into another area that deals with the north and it has to do with a conversation I had with our colleague the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope).

Members will recall that I raised with the Minister of Natural Resources a problem in northern Ontario, in the Nipigon district of the Ministry of Natural Resources, where a young, perhaps naive, but very dedicated professional forester was fired because he dared to share some very vital and important information with me. That is all he is guilty of. He did not do it for political reasons; he did not do it because he wanted to be sensational; he did not do it because he wanted to get his name in the paper; he did not do it because he is an agitator. He did it out of a commitment to his profession of forestry.

He was notified about two weeks ago that his services were no longer required on the basis that he had disagreed with ministry policy. The minister was very careful when I put the question to him not to accuse this young, dedicated, professional forester of violating an oath of secrecy or anything of that nature; he did it on the basis that he disagreed with ministry policy.

I want to tell the members something about ministry policy.

Mr. Martel: He should have fired Mickey Hennessy last week.

Mr. Stokes: All Mr. MacAlpine, who is the gentleman in question, was saying to his people within the ministry—the district forester, the regional forester, the regional director, the assistant deputy minister, the deputy minister

and, one would hope, the minister—was that before they asked him, as a professional forester, to make a decision as to whether or not there was a sufficient amount of timber on the Port Arthur crown management unit to allocate sufficient timber to a sawmill, that is Sapawe, which is just outside of Atikokan in Rainy River, the kind of data that he had been handed was out of date and inaccurate.

4:50 p.m.

This young forester did not have sufficient information upon which to make that recommendation, so he said to his superiors: "I am sorry, I cannot make that recommendation until we have had time to do a realistic inventory of the wood stock on that crown management unit as to the species and the age classes available. As soon as I can gather that data, I will make it available to you, and be happy to do so."

He was told: "Never mind. There is not time for that, we have to issue this licence. Issue it on the basis of previous data and previous inventory stock." He said, "Really, I cannot do that because I will be doing you an injustice if it is found out later that the wood supplies are not there and they are not sufficient to satisfy the needs of the traditional users plus this other user," which happened to be Buchanan Forest Products.

He said: "I am doing you people an injustice. I am doing Buchanan Forest Products an injustice because they need to spend \$3 million or \$4 million to upgrade the mill in Sapawe and, of course, they cannot do it unless they have some assurance that there is going to be a reasonable supply of wood in the long term to justify the expenditure in the first place."

He was not doing the minister or his staff an injustice; he was doing them a favour. Why do I say that? I say it because when he was asked to make that decision it was in October and November 1981. I want to report to the minister—and he will know whereof I speak—and to all members of this House that that is precisely what they have done. They have not issued the licence and they are not going to issue the licence, thank God. They are not going to issue the licence until they have done a realistic inventory as to age classes and species on the Port Arthur management unit.

We can all applaud that, but that is all Mr. MacAlpine was asking for in the first place. Why does the minister fire a guy for giving him good, sound advice, which he takes and implements? Then he fires him for his trouble. There has been a lot of discussion about this particular

issue, and northerners feel very strongly about it.

I can report that a group centred in Nipigon is collecting a petition of hundreds of names that will be forwarded to the Minister of Natural Resources and to the Premier (Mr. Davis). They are going to remind the minister and the Premier of what was said in this House on October 9, 1980, when the minister in his previous responsibilities—*ministre sans portefeuille*—was responsible for bringing in a freedom of information act.

Let me quote what the Minister of Natural Resources said on that occasion: "This government is committed to greater openness in its administration, and increased access by the citizen. To this end, the Premier last week wrote to all ministers with guidelines for civil servants in communicating with the public. Let me quote briefly from that letter:

"'Between now and the time freedom of information legislation is enacted'"—this is from the Premier's letter—"and the administrative apparatus for its operation is in place, there is a great deal we can do to give the policy of open government meaning and consistency. A step that can be taken in this interim period is to encourage open and responsive behaviour among civil servants in their daily dealings with the public, particularly including members of the Legislative Assembly and representatives of the news media.'"

That is all Mr. MacAlpine is guilty of, following the edicts laid down by the Premier of this province to all ministers of the crown. To indicate how strongly the people in northern Ontario feel, they are taking up a collection right at this moment to allow Mr. MacAlpine to stay in the area, a collection to sustain him and his young family until we can get a satisfactory resolution of this problem.

The minister is shaking his head in a negative fashion, but there is not another single action I can think of at this time that would more improve his stock as a minister of the crown than to go up there and say, "We have had our differences, but we have accepted the recommendation that you were hanging your hat on; let us get on with the job of managing the forestry resources in northern Ontario."

Let me quote from a letter that was sent to the editor of the Chronicle-Journal in Thunder Bay by one of the most dedicated foresters anywhere in any jurisdiction. He used to be in private industry. He is the former dean of forestry at Lakehead University. He is still

associated with it but not as the dean. He saw fit to respond to an editorial in the Chronicle-Journal. I want to quote from that letter:

"As one who has been concerned for many years about the serious deficiencies in providing forest policy, administration and programs, I must comment upon your March 31, 1982, editorial, 'Punishment Proper for Leaked Secret.' The issue raised therein is but a consequence in large measure of the aforementioned deficiencies.

"This aspect aside, however, as a citizen I reject your classification of the information provided by forester MacAlpine to his member of our provincial parliament as secret. The forest inventory data for the area in question were obtained by public servants for forests owned by the people of Ontario. None of this information need nor should be secret or confidential.

5 p.m.

"Other public servants, however, apparently ordered the manipulation of those data to legitimize the disposal of timber from the area to a politically influential timber contractor.

"Such was the dilemma confronting this young professional forester. The intransigence of ministry bureaucrats in proposing measures which he deemed unprofessional and improper gave him no alternative apparently but to seek the assistance of his member of the provincial parliament. That he should have been summarily discharged for his attempt to serve the public interest as a professional forester raises serious questions about the operations of the Ministry of Natural Resources, particularly in relation to the disposal of public timber.

"Questions arise also as to the professional ethics of some of our public servants in that agency. One could surmise that they had been rather more dedicated to serving the pleasures of their political masters and the advancement of their own careers than to professional forestry, the people of the region and the province.

"The other issue addressed in your editorial is that of the veritable flood of information leaked at all levels of government. If indeed this activity is as widespread and commonplace as suggested, one is led to speculate that it must be a manifestation of the frustration of civil servants in governments which appear to be increasingly intolerant of opinions, initiatives and activities not conforming to norms decreed by mandarins.

"Your suggestion that opposition politicians should discourage leaks, in my opinion is naive. It would eliminate one means by which elected

representatives can endeavour to prevent governments from taking arbitrary or secret measures or from sweeping under the rug the unfortunate consequences of such measures without disclosure and without debate. Long may leaks continue.

"Yours truly, K. W. Hearnden."

He is the former dean of forestry at Lakehead University, now director of student business within that faculty, and he served Abitibi-Price, the people in this province and the people of northwestern Ontario for many years before taking on the responsibility of teaching young foresters at Lakehead University.

I want the minister to reflect upon that because there is one small community in my riding, called Dorion. It is not too far away from Ouimet Canyon, about 40 miles east of the city of Thunder Bay on Highway 17—

Mr. Laughren: It's a nice place.

Mr. Stokes: Sure, it's a nice place. They felt so strongly about this whole issue and about the allocation of timber, and there are about 30 or 40 small contractors whose livelihood depends upon the proper allocation of timber in the Port Arthur crown management deal—

Mr. Nixon: You get amethyst at Dorion.

Mr. Stokes: Yes, you do, the official gemstone of this province of opportunity. The township of Dorion sent the Minister of Natural Resources a petition requesting that he withhold the allocation of timber and the issuance of a licence until this realistic inventory had been undertaken, and the ministry has done that.

But lest the minister think this is a very small parochial incident of little or no consequence, I want to remind him that northern communities all the way from Echo Bay, Bruce Mines, along Highway 17, all the way west of Thunder Bay and including the city of Thunder Bay, agree with the position that was taken by Mr. MacAlpine and the township of Dorion, and supported by what the minister has finally done by way of withholding the issuance of a licence until he gets accurate information.

I had another letter—and I cannot lay my hands on it right now—from a member of the staff of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Mr. Martel: Don't name him.

Mr. Laughren: If you name him, he will be gone.

Mr. Stokes: It was sent to the minister seeking clarification of ministry policy.

Mr. Laughren: Do they have to swear an oath of loyalty to the minister personally?

Mr. Martel: That's where they really get in trouble.

Mr. Stokes: I'm sorry I can't lay my hands on it. It said something like: "Will you please tell us, as concerned employees of the Ministry of Natural Resources, what guidelines we are to operate under? We took at face value what the minister has said with regard to openness of government, sharing information with the public, the media and representatives of the Ontario Legislature." They are asking the minister to clarify his position.

There are a lot of very concerned civil servants out there who feel they are damned if they do and damned if they don't. They have a right to know how they can operate, keep their masters happy and still live up to the guidelines that the government espoused here in 1980, which have been fortified by what has been said by the Premier.

I want to say to the Minister of Natural Resources that in my personal opinion he has had among members of his ministry by far the most dedicated, concerned, interested and hard-working people in any ministry of this or any other government. I used to marvel at the esprit de corps in the old Ministry of Lands and Forests and until recently it was very prominent within his ministry. I see that changing rapidly and it is not good.

I do not think there was ever a time in the history of a ministry which is responsible for the resources we have in such abundance in this province, whether it is fish, wildlife, forestry, mining, land use or parks, all the things the minister is responsible for, when it was under more pressure. I am sure the minister will agree with me. This is true whether one is talking about tourist operators, anglers, commercial fishermen, trappers, major pulp and paper companies, sawmill operators or mining corporations. They have never been as disturbed and concerned as they are right now.

5:10 p.m.

I think this minister, more than any other in the government, has a lot of work to do to restore that esprit de corps, that confidence that the forester will be supported by this minister when he is doing a good job. I think Mr. MacAlpine was doing a good job. Everybody who knows him feels as I do.

The minister says he has to leave in less than 15 minutes, but I just want him to reflect upon

that. This is not something one plays politics with, in my view. I think what is at stake here is far too important to play with. He is dealing with the future of a very dedicated young forester.

But even more important than that, in the long term, is the future management of a resource that is responsible for 75 per cent of all of the industrial and commercial activity in northwestern Ontario. Without forestry up there we are dead. When we get somebody like Mr. MacAlpine trying to do a good job, does it matter whether one is on that side of the House or this side of the House, whether one is a Liberal, Conservative or New Democrat? We have a moral obligation to protect people who are dedicated, people who are ethical, people who have honesty and integrity in the performance of their responsibilities.

Since the Minister of Natural Resources must go to another meeting I want to bring one other thing to his attention, because it hinges directly upon his responsibilities. It has to do with the mining industry. The minister will know that notwithstanding the economic recession, which is not only nationwide but worldwide, things are pretty tough in most sectors of our economy. But I would like the minister to reflect on the future of mining.

The minister will know the second largest steel producer in this province, Algoma Steel, has some iron ore in and around Wawa and Michipicoten. I do not know what the lifespan of that ore body is. My friend from Algoma (Mr. Wildman) tells me it is 25 years. But since the closure of Steep Rock Iron Mines Ltd. in Atikokan they have contracted to import large amounts of iron ore from the Tilden mine in Michigan.

Mr. Wildman: Sixty per cent.

Mr. Stokes: Sixty per cent.

We have just lost Umex Mines in Pickle Lake. I do not know when it is going to open. But 30 miles south of Pickle Lake we have, at Lake St. Joseph, the largest deposits of iron ore anywhere in Canada. Let me quote from a document—it is common knowledge, I am not leaking this—put out by the strategic land-use planning people. It says:

"The Lake St. Joe area has two very large iron ore deposits which may have the potential to support major mining operations in the future. The first deposit, owned by Steep Rock Iron Mines Ltd., has been unofficially estimated to contain in excess of 545 million tons of ore. If this property were brought into production at the proposed rate of approximately 3.6 million

tons of pellets per year, the life expectancy of an operation of this magnitude would be well over 50 years and would permanently employ up to 800 workers and over 2,000 during the construction stage.

"The second major iron ore deposit in the Lake St. Joe area is the Eagle Island deposit at the west end of Lake St. Joseph. This property, held by Algoma Steel Corp. Ltd."—the very one that is importing from Tilden Mines in Michigan—"contains ore of an excellent grade and has reported reserves of 218 million tons or more.

"A third deposit at Doran Lake has also reserves in excess of 272 million tons. These properties combined have an estimated reserve of about 1.1 billion tons, and constitute a significant portion of the total iron ore reserves in this province."

I do not want to mislead anybody in this House, but I am wondering what action the ministry is taking. When there is an upturn, when we hit the next jump in steel production, is the minister going to allow the free enterprise, laissez-faire attitude to prevail, where Algoma Steel, though a good company, is going to go where it can get the biggest bang for its buck?

Is it in the provincial interest, is it in the national interest that the minister should sit idly by and let them import 60 per cent of their iron ore requirements to keep their steel furnaces going in Sault Ste. Marie when we are sitting on the largest deposits of iron ore anywhere in Canada and perhaps anywhere in the world—in excess of a billion tons of high grade iron ore—when we have communities such as Atikokan going down the drain, when we have communities such as Pickle Lake going down the drain, and National Steel in Capreol? What is the minister doing?

Not only that, but let me quote again from this ministry document: "In association with these iron reserves, it is understood that the Steel Co. of Canada (Stelco), Dominion Foundries and Steel Co. (Dofasco), and Algoma Steel Corp. have a conceptual plan to produce iron ore concentrates at Lake St. Joe and to transport this material via slurry pipeline to Red Rock on Lake Superior for shipping. As a result of this proposal, in 1977 the group of companies requested and received a surface rights withdrawal under section 43 of the Mining Act within a 3.2-kilometre-wide corridor all the way from Lake St. Joe to Red Rock. This land was withdrawn in order to prevent adverse alienation while Stelco,

Dofasco and Algoma continue their joint study on the feasibility of the overall proposal."

5:20 p.m.

That was in 1977. I know something as large as that which requires tremendous capital expenditures can only be viable when the market is such that one can produce something in the order of 3.5 million to four million tons of iron ore pellets. But what is the government doing about it now?

We do not want to have the same thing that happened in the automobile industry when it fell down around our ears and then, all of a sudden, we decided there was a problem. There is a problem in mining in Ontario right now. We are meeting with the Ontario Mining Association in the next few weeks at the Royal York Hotel. I am sure they will be telling us. They will be reminding us.

The Minister of Natural Resources should start thinking and planning now. We talk about strategic land-use planning, about district land-use planning, about Board of Industrial Leadership and Development projects and all the wonderful things we have going for us. I do not hear the minister saying anything about any long-range plans for the mining industry in northern Ontario.

He could be putting those projects in place in a conceptual way, in a planning way and in an orderly fashion right now for the next economic upturn. I can remember 10 years ago if one mentioned planning it was a dirty word. It smacked of socialism and that was unacceptable to the rascals over there.

Now that planning has become a respectable undertaking, I suggest the minister take a look at his responsibilities in concert with the mining industry and on behalf of all the people in northern Ontario so that when that next economic upturn comes, and it will come, he will be in a position to take advantage of it. We will not be looking at the Mesabi range in Minnesota. We will not be looking at Tilden Mines in Michigan. We will not be looking at what we can do for Labrador. Let us look at what we can do for northern Ontario.

I want to thank the Minister of Natural Resources for staying around to hear me.

Mr. Laughren: The only cabinet minister who did.

Mr. Wildman: That leaves no minister. Where is the government?

Mr. Stokes: I would have liked to have been able to pay tribute to the Minister of Health (Mr.

Grossman) and the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Drea) for a program undertaken to supply appropriate beds for senior citizens in hospitals in northern Ontario. It was announced in the throne speech. Some of the hospitals in my riding anticipated that announcement and are already in the process of preparing to take advantage of that. That is one of the positive things in the throne speech.

Another thing I mentioned during the supplementary estimates of the Ministry of Community and Social Services was that, for the first time ever, that ministry in concert with the Ministry of Health is providing a psychiatrist for communities like Schreiber, Terrace Bay, Nipigon, Red Rock, Beardmore, Jellicoe, Geraldton, Nakina, Longlac, Caramat, Manitouwadge, Heron Bay and Marathon. Something in excess of \$300,000 had been dedicated to that use. That is positive and I believe in giving credit where credit is due. For that, I am grateful.

The deputy leader of this party—

Mr. Cooke: Where is he? There is no leader there right now.

An hon. member: Right here.

Mr. Cooke: Oh, I'm sorry.

An hon. member: It's dangerous when you just wake up.

Mr. Stokes: You just simply must pay attention. The member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds), when framing a question to one of the cabinet ministers over there last week, reminded us that Great Lakes Forest Products' woodlands division is laying off 1,600 employees. Abitibi is laying off in excess of 400 employees. MacMillan Bloedel is laying off 200 employees and Boise Cascade in the great town of Kenora is laying off 775 employees. Umex Mines at Pickle Lake has closed and 160 employees got their walking tickets. At White River the sawmill operated by Abitibi-Price has closed its operation—180 people.

Mr. Wildman: For up to a year.

Mr. Stokes: For up to a year, my colleague reminds me. I am wondering what the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Piché) says when he goes back to his riding. I am wondering what the member for Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Lane) says when he goes back to his riding. I am even wondering what the member for Fort William (Mr. Hennessy) says. I get to hear most of what he says when he goes back to his riding, but in this particular instance I really do not know what the member says when people come to him

and ask, "How do you justify the laying-off of all these people in the great city of Thunder Bay?"

We know a lot of it is as a result of market conditions, but at a time when this government is spending \$650 million to acquire a minority position in Suncor, at a time when this government is spending money to breed racehorses, at a time when this government is giving a lot of money away to major corporations—

Mr. Martel: The free enterprisers.

Mr. Stokes: —it is called socialism for the rich and free enterprise for the poor—we have so many people laid off at a time when we are entering into agreements with the major licence holders in the forest industry, where the name of the game will be to dedicate ever increasing amounts for reforestation, for silvicultural treatment.

5:30 p.m.

I do not see anything in the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program or any announcements that suggest the problem of lack of regeneration over the last number of years is going to be addressed. We are getting to the time of the year now when the weather is such that those kinds of projects can be undertaken to provide work that is badly needed so that we can maintain our relative position with regard to our ability to compete in world markets for building supplies and paper products.

I wonder, when the Minister of Natural Resources, the Minister of Northern Affairs and the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) are sitting around the cabinet table, all those very fine gentlemen from northern Ontario, how vocal they are in talking about the kinds of things that are so important to the 15 members from northern Ontario who sit in this Legislature.

I am sure the member for Algoma-Manitoulin, when he is sitting down and talking about the potential in that great riding, or the member for Fort William, the member for Cochrane North or the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris), in talking about the potential in northern Ontario and what should be done, do not identify the major problems and their solutions very much differently from the way I do. But somehow that never gets translated into the kind of action so necessary to keep all the residents of northern Ontario in the social and economic mainstream in this province and in this country.

I was sitting having lunch today down in the dining room—

An hon. member: What did you have, Jack?

Mr. Stokes: I had a bowl of soup, a toasted bacon and tomato sandwich and a pot of tea. As I was sitting there, I happened to look over to the Conservative table. We all have our own little place. Usually, when one looks at that large circular table in the centre of the dining room, one sees a lot of Conservative back-bench members. But I have noticed a change of late; it was particularly noticeable today. I wonder if any other member noticed it. On two days last week I looked over there and saw a cabinet minister. So I looked over again today, and I saw two cabinet ministers: the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. Walker) and the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller). I do not know whether there is an election of some sort coming up. I do not think so.

I suspect that within the confines of the Conservative caucus a great deal of dissatisfaction has been expressed over the lack of communication between those on the front benches and the people who are called upon from time to time to support their actions. I am not being critical of them. I applaud them because, in effect, that is what I am doing right here and now; I am trying to get the attention of those beggars on the front rows. The member for Cochrane North will probably not admit it, the member for Nipissing will probably not admit it, maybe the member for Fort William will, but I know the member for Algoma-Manitoulin will not. I am convinced the dedicated northerners who are elected members of this assembly are just as concerned about the same things that concern me as a representative of the north. So I tell them to invite the ministers out to dinner or to lunch—just hound the heck out of them. We are only 15 members from north of the French River out of a total of 125 and we have to work harder, we have to work longer, we have to be much more diligent and we have to holler louder just to get their attention.

Mr. Hennessy: Who'll pay for the dinner?

Mr. Stokes: I think I was not too far from the truth there. I am sure those members I referred to a little earlier are just as concerned as I am about the declining population in northern Ontario for all the reasons that we, who represent northern ridings, know so well.

The decline in the population from 1976 to 1981 in the Sudbury region, and they are not impoverished by any stretch of the imagination, was 5.4 per cent. In Kirkland Lake the decline from 1976 to 1981 was 11 per cent. In Kapuskasing the decline was six per cent. In Iroquois Falls it was 8.7 per cent; in Atikokan, 24.3 per cent; in

Manitouwadge, 11 per cent; in Cobalt, 15.1 per cent, and in Red Rock, 15.4 per cent.

With the recent closure in Pickle Lake—I am sorry, what did I miss?

Mr. Breaugh: Nipissing.

An hon. member: Where is the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris)?

An hon. member: There is no member for Nipissing.

Mr. Stokes: No. I can see Mattawa went down 7.9 per cent.

Mr. Breaugh: Why, they have taken Nipissing right off the map. That's a little harsh, isn't it?

An hon. member: It must be a government publication.

Mr. Stokes: And North Bay went down two per cent.

But why do I raise this? I used to hear John Diefenbaker from time to time, and I can remember how he had his vision of the north. I used to hear Richard Rohmer when he talked about the development corridor stretching from Labrador through northern Ontario and all the way up into the Mackenzie Delta. There were all these great visionary Tories we used to have extolling the virtues of the north and trying to convince themselves and us along with them that the future of Canada was really in its northland.

I happen to agree with that. At a time when there is a decline in population in those communities I believe there still will be those who will be responsible for developing the new economic wealth that will be created as a result of the orderly exploitation of the resources we have in such abundance in northern Ontario. But where is the plan? Where is the design?

We used to talk in this House about the design for development—of the Toronto-centred region, of northwestern Ontario, of northeastern Ontario. It was accepted more than 10 years ago by this government as policy, as something that can be supported. Do we ever hear of the design for development for the Toronto-centred region? Do we ever hear about the design for development for northwestern or northeastern Ontario? We never even hear it referred to any more.

5:40 p.m.

Those designs for development replaced the economic development branch of the old Ministry of Treasury and Economics when my good friend Charles MacNaughton was the Treasurer of this province and there was great potential for development in northern Ontario. Well, now

we talk about strategic land-use planning. We do not talk about design for development; we talk about strategic land use planning and district land-use planning now. We have people in the various ministries also of the north tripping over themselves trying to come up with a land-use plan for the province. God bless them.

When we see the population decline in key, strategic communities in the north, we know what has happened to design for development. A good many of the jobs that have been lost, to which I referred a little bit earlier, were in communities such as Thunder Bay, the largest urban centre north of the French River. I look at declining job opportunities there. I look at places such as Kenora and Pickle Lake, and wonder whatever happened to the design for development.

There were no increases in jobs in northern Ontario; there has been a decline in jobs. Some of it has been occasioned by incentive grants made available to the pulp, paper and sawmill industry—federal and provincial government grants under the Department of Regional Economic Expansion agreement that have the effect of reducing jobs.

I know we cannot stop progress. To compete in world markets, we have to find a better way of doing what we do best. That is inevitable under the free enterprise system. But I do not think people should suffer as a result of those conscious decisions. We must—dare I use the word again?—plan a strategy of economic development to satisfy the people. That is what government is all about; that is what industry is all about; that is what life is all about; that is what society is all about—serving the legitimate needs of people.

Frankly, I do not see that happening. I could go on for the next hour about the differential in the cost of essential services between southern and northern Ontario, but I am not going to. I could go on about the differential in the cost of gasoline. I have engaged the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Ashe) in this dialogue, and I have done it on previous occasions with the Premier, the Treasurer and the Minister of Energy (Mr. Welch). But I do not get any real answers.

For instance, I left my home in Schreiber yesterday afternoon at four o'clock. I had to catch the 8:05 p.m. flight out of Thunder Bay for Toronto so I would be bright-eyed and bushy-tailed down here this morning.

I stopped at the gas pump in Schreiber. Number two gasoline in Schreiber, which is on

Highway 17 and the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, retails for 48.3 cents per litre. I went to Thunder Bay, 130 road miles away, stopped at a self-serve Texaco station and got it for 41.2 cents per litre there.

There is a big difference between 41 cents and 48 cents a litre, and there are 4.4 litres in a gallon of gasoline. Multiply that differential by 4.4 and it gives some idea of the disparity in the price of gasoline over a distance of 130 miles in northern Ontario. Like some other members, my colleague the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. Cooke) would argue that he pays almost as much in Windsor as we pay in Thunder Bay.

I am wondering what it is with a government that sits idly by and sees this happening to the citizens of northern Ontario. I would not be uncharitable enough to call it gouging when talking about the wholesale and retail policies of those involved in the business of distributing petroleum products. But what is it in that overall strategy or hierarchy that causes those of us along the north shore of Lake Superior to pay between 25 and 30 cents a gallon more for gasoline than they do even in the city of Thunder Bay or most places south of the French River?

We have the ability, we have the will, we have the inclination, and we have the policy of this government to distribute booze and beer in stores anywhere throughout the province at one uniform price. Nobody deludes himself that it costs Brewers' Retail stores more to market a case of beer in northern Ontario. It costs more to market a 25-ounce or 40-ounce bottle of booze, but that matters not. I am not a beer drinker, and I do not know how much beer costs. All I know and can report is that it is the same price—how much?

Mr. Kolyn: It's \$11.25 a case.

Mr. Stokes: Thank you very much for that information. I can report that if it is \$11.25 in Lakeshore, that is what it is in Etobicoke, Thunder Bay, Kenora and Calabogie. Why can the government not do something with products like gasoline and home heating oil, which are so essential to northern Ontario communities? The distances up there are so much greater than they are down here.

5:50 p.m.

I can report that we have people who work in the mines, who work in forestry, who work for the Ministry of Natural Resources, who work for the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, who work for TransCanada Pipe-

Lines for whom it is not uncommon to jump in their cars and go 30, 40 or 50 miles just to get to work every morning and back home at night.

If one lives in Manitouwadge and has to go to a specialist, it is a 250-mile trip from there to Thunder Bay. There would be a stay of one or two nights at a motel, depending on the nature of the consultation or the kind of medical services required. It is 250 miles back. It is the same thing if one happens to live in Pickle Lake. If you have a toothache, you drive 199 miles down Highway 599 until you get to Ignace, then you make a left-hand turn and go 157 miles to the city of Thunder Bay.

I wonder what the rationale is for people who sit over there. A lot of them represent northern ridings. Why do they sit by so peacefully with so much acquiescence and say, "That's just the way things have to be"? If we can do it for beer and booze, we can do it for gasoline and home heating oil.

I have a final topic. I have a lot of topics, but I am only going to refer to one. It deals with our first citizens. The native people in this province have been given short shrift for far too long by all of us, and not only the federal government and the provincial government.

By way of highlighting what I mean, I want to draw the honourable members' attention to this. The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) will know what I speak of, because he has journeyed to that part of the province, to places such as Fort Hope, Lansdowne, Webequie and Summer Beaver. Those are strictly native communities. One of the four has reserve status. It is recognized to be an Indian band by the federal government. It is called the Fort Hope band. But there are three satellite communities, namely, Lansdowne, Webequie and Summer Beaver.

I would like to take all members of this House up to the place called Summer Beaver. It is an entirely new community hacked out of the wilderness by some very hard-working and dedicated native people to improve their lifestyle and to be much better able to live upon and off the resources indigenous to that area. They have done a heck of a good job.

I wish the members could see the school the native people have built up there, strictly out of logs, and the two teacherages, which are just beautiful. There is no ski chalet any place in Canada, the United States or western Europe that can compare with the beauty and workmanship that went into those, solely as a result of the initiative of those native people. They

have a little nursing station they constructed for the visiting nurse, who comes in once a month. Everything they have in that community of some 180 souls was built by them almost totally out of materials that are indigenous to that area.

They want reserve status. They want to paddle their own canoe, so to speak. To this time, they have not been allowed to do it.

Finally, I want to put on the record a letter that was sent to the Right Honourable Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, and to the Premier of Ontario:

"Dear Honourable Sirs:

"Attached you will find a letter that was sent to the chiefs of Fort Hope, Webequie, Lansdowne and Summer Beaver. I believe that you will find the content of this letter to the chiefs to be quite clear.

"I would like to make this statement to you as the leaders of your respective governments. We, the Nishnawbe-Aski nation, have felt it very expedient that we make as strong an approach as possible to the government of Canada and also the government of the province of Ontario with regard to certain basic issues that our people are facing today.

"In the 13 communities in northern Ontario in the lands of the Nishnawbe-Aski, we find it strongly objectionable that these people are considered to be squatters on provincial crown land. Every man has a right to his place under the sun. This is one of the basic elements contained in the International Charter of Human Rights, yet our people are subjected, because of the conditions they live under, to gross violations of their human rights and their aboriginal rights that exist far back in memory. In fact, our aboriginal tenure to the land that we now consider Nishnawbe-Aski lands is from time immemorial.

"Honourable Sirs, we have honestly tried to fit ourselves into a negotiation structure. We were quite willing to develop a base of understanding with regard to the land and resources in Nishnawbe-Aski lands under a four-year negotiation timetable. It is quite clear that your respective governments have seen fit to make every attempt to thwart our efforts at true negotiation.

"Therefore, on the basis that we have tried and up to this point have failed to develop that structure, I find it necessary, as an adviser to my grand chief Wally McKay, to highly recommend that our people withdraw from the proposal that we submitted in August 1981.

"My reason for doing this is that our very

existence is threatened by the possibility of new terminology of aboriginal rights. I would be doing an injustice to the people I serve if I sat back and ignored the threat, as I see it, without advising the people I serve of this threat to their lifestyle and to their future generations.”

It is signed, “Fred Plain, special adviser to grand chief of council 9, Wally McKay.”

I raise that because I could go on at great length indicating the frustrations experienced by our native citizens whenever they attempt to deal in a reasonable way with both levels of government. We all recognize that the responsibility for the delivery of most programs falls within the domain of the federal government. There are a good many areas—and when one is dealing with land, we talk about provincial crown lands—that have to be transferred from the provincial jurisdiction to the federal jurisdiction. But there are so many other things.

Our colleague the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) made a statement in the House the other day in connection with a bill that is being introduced, and in it she too recognizes the provincial responsibility of providing a well-rounded educational experience to our first citizens. We in this jurisdiction can

do it so much better and so much more efficiently than the federal government, which is not in the business of educating people; least of all is the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

I think we have a good educational system in Ontario. One can quarrel with it; I can quarrel with it when they start closing high schools in my riding. But the kind of education we are providing in our elementary and secondary schools is so far superior to anything that is being offered by the federal Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development that I think we have a collective responsibility to assist in making it available to them. There are just so many ways in which we as a provincial jurisdiction can assist those native people.

I have gone on for much longer than I intended. I want to thank all honourable members for their patience and their indulgence.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): On behalf of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker, I would like to thank the honourable member and former Speaker for the very kind words he gave to the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker.

The House recessed at 6:01 p.m.

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Ontario, LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

R. 8
No. 22

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Official Report (Hansard)



Second Session, Thirty-Second Parliament

Tuesday, April 13, 1982

Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, April 13, 1982

The House resumed at 8:01 p.m.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Andrewes: Mr. Speaker, now that everybody is through clamoring and haranguing me, I would like to say a word of welcome to the Scout troops who are in the gallery. It is always a privilege to share this Legislature's lawmaking processes with the young people of the province. I certainly welcome them, and I am glad to see them here tonight.

I would also like to say a word of appreciation to the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes), who is not with us this evening, for his contribution to the filibuster this afternoon. It is a privilege for me, as a member of this government, to rise in the House and make some brief comments with respect to the speech delivered by His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor.

Those members whose eager ears and attentiveness brought them clamoring into the chamber about a year ago, in the early stages of the first session of the 32nd Parliament, were not surprised when addressing this chamber for the first time that I drew members' attention to that great constituency of Lincoln lying south of Lake Ontario, amidst the shores of one's voyage through the Niagara Peninsula.

Mr. Cassidy: Did Stephen Leacock write that speech?

Mr. Andrewes: I actually wrote it myself. I drew attention to that great constituency by describing it as a veritable Eden complete with the symbolic apple. The agricultural heritage of the Niagara Peninsula, upon which so many Ontarians depend, with products of the soil, the hoof, the tree, the vine and, yes, the wine press, notarizes the Lincoln riding. It focuses the rest of Ontario's attention on the abundance of goodness nurtured by the skill and stewardship of those wise and judicious constituents of Lincoln.

Mr. J. A. Reed: The member did not write that.

Mr. Andrewes: There is more. It is against this background that I wish to address myself to the concerns of agriculture as they relate to matters of rising energy costs and the production and distribution of food products.

In response to this concern, the government of Ontario convened, in June 1980, the energy and agricultural policy committee. Following an extensive review of the concerns and directions of the agricultural industry, the report of that committee, which was tabled in this House during the last session of Parliament, mapped out a strategy for the efficient use of existing forms of energy. As well, it addressed itself to fuel substitution by the production of energy alternatives from agricultural crops and residues.

Through efficient use of existing forms of energy, significant savings can be made by the farm operator in the production of food. Careful selection of farm machinery to suit the size of operation, the type of crop, the nature of the soil itself, together with stringent food land guidelines in order that the most productive farm land is managed to yield its greatest productivity, are key strategies set forth in the report of the policy committee.

I am sorry to see the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini) is not here, because he would no doubt have some great interest in what I have to say with respect to the greenhouse industry.

Following on the heels of the energy and agriculture policy report came the report of the special greenhouse advisory committee which was established by the Minister of Agriculture and Food and the Minister of Energy in March 1981—how could we forget that great month—to identify ways to assist greenhouse operators to improve energy efficiency and to utilize alternative sources of energy. This report represents the committee's recommendations and supporting documentation for a broad range of initiatives to assist the greenhouse industry to realize these objectives.

Conservation technologies are identified in this report and the government is currently awaiting input from industry to prioritize initiatives in order to complement energy conservation

programs in other sectors of the economy.

I think it would be helpful to touch briefly on some of the other energy conservation initiatives by which this government has demonstrated its leadership in order to meet the ambitious goals of self-sufficiency established by the government in 1980. By way of an amendment to the Power Corporation Act, the government put into place the residential energy advisory program which allows Ontario Hydro and municipal utilities to establish an energy audit system for home owners whereby—

Mr. J. A. Reed: It is a great method of selling electricity but it won't wash in terms of conservation.

Mr. Andrewes: Julian, just listen to this stuff—whereby trained personnel of Ontario Hydro or the utilities, at the request of the home owner, will identify areas in the home where more efficient use of energy can be achieved. As well, a low-interest loan of up to \$2,000 is made available to the home owner to undertake the recommendations of the energy auditor.

Other programs undertaken co-operatively by the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs and the Ministry of Energy encouraged the retrofit of older buildings, both privately and publicly owned, in order to lower the energy consumption and reduce the operating costs.

A recent publication of the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs identifies planning techniques by which municipalities can achieve greater efficiency in the use of energy through the careful design of subdivisions and new housing developments.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade continues to make great strides through the energy bus program in identifying significant savings in industrial complexes across the province.

Incentives to encourage industry to change from oil to other less costly forms of energy have assisted in making Ontario's manufacturing sector more efficient.

Research and demonstration programs highlighting the innovative use of alternative forms of energy provide industry and home owners with working examples of how they can save dollars and contribute significantly to the self-sufficiency goals of this province.

Mr. J. A. Reed: This province has no self-sufficiency goals and you know it.

Mr. Andrewes: I am going to ignore the interjections of the former Energy critic of the Liberal Party.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): Please do.

8:10 p.m.

Mr. Andrewes: Significant to this discussion, more than 40 per cent of the fossil fuel energy consumed in Ontario is used in the transportation sector. It is in this area where significant gains can be made in reducing the nation's dependency on imported oil.

Mr. J. A. Reed: Yes, and what about other renewable energy forms?

Mr. Andrewes: The transportation energy management program, jointly sponsored by the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, offers training and educational programs to equip drivers, both in the private and commercial sectors, to use our energy resources more efficiently.

Through the elimination of sales tax on conversion and new production line units and the elimination of road taxes on fuel, we are well on our way to achieving our goals in the use of alternative fuels for transportation.

Mr. J. A. Reed: You didn't even take the sales tax off stove pipes.

Mr. Andrewes: Propane and compressed natural gas present realistic opportunities to commercial operators to convert vehicles from gasoline to alternative fuels that are readily available. I would be remiss if I talked about our government's ambitious energy programs without mentioning that this province's public utility, Ontario Hydro, will remain a cornerstone of our economy and the implement of this government's energy initiatives.

In 1963, this government of wisdom and leadership authorized Ontario Hydro to move into the nuclear age, having maximized the major hydraulic resources in the province. This decision was made when most other jurisdictions were increasing their dependency on fossil fuels as a form of generating electrical energy.

Mr. J. A. Reed: You haven't even developed half the hydraulic resources in Ontario.

Mr. Andrewes: Yet even the staunchest critic of this decision today must admit that the marriage of the Candu reactor and the indigenous uranium resources of Ontario was a wise and prudent decision—members from the north will all agree—for which this government and its leaders must be congratulated.

In 1973, when the industrialized nations of the world were struck down by dramatic increases in oil prices as a result of an effective cartel

operated by the oil producing export countries, Ontario was well on its way to establishing an infrastructure that currently supplies one third of the electrical energy consumed in the province. Current construction programs will more than triple the electrical output of nuclear reactors and will supply about half Ontario's energy requirements by 1990.

What if this government had followed the advice offered by the opposition in 1963? What would have happened? It would have meant that today this province would have built its electrical dependency on declining supplies of fossil fuels, suffering the vagaries of world oil prices which we have seen increase more than eightfold in real terms in the last decade. I say that in the light of what appears to be a current world oil glut, but I think most educated people would agree—

Mr. J. A. Reed: Ontario suffered the worst of all.

The Acting Speaker: Order. The member will withhold his interjections and allow the member for Lincoln to have the floor.

Mr. J. A. Reed: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: It is very difficult to sit here and be accused, as the former Energy critic of the official opposition, of advocating the burning of fossil fuels to generate electricity in Ontario. There has been no single person in the province who has been more opposed to that—

The Acting Speaker: Order. That is beyond the point of privilege. The member will have an opportunity to speak in rotation. At present, the member for Lincoln has the floor. I ask the member for Halton-Burlington to withhold his interjections and put them together in the form of a speech.

Mr. Andrewes: Mr. Speaker, I will continue and try not to be quite so provocative. I want to tell the member for Halton-Burlington that, with respect, I am talking about 1963 when that prudent decision was made. I do not think the member was a participant in the debate in this House at that time. However, I will continue.

This government recognizes the demand for electrical energy can only be met by having in place an infrastructure that will meet the needs of home owners and commercial users across the province. Ontario Hydro currently has two proposals before public forums that would extend the power corridor both east and west to meet the developing needs of these areas. Every effort will be made to address the concerns of agriculture, of the environment and of our

historical and cultural fabric in the construction and placement of these power corridors.

The electrical initiatives of this province have become the envy of many jurisdictions around the world. It is for this reason that an interministerial committee responsible for the province's participation in the World's Fair to open in Knoxville, Tennessee, in May of this year chose to portray the electrical initiatives in Ontario's contribution to that Canadian exhibit.

It has been my privilege to serve as chairman of that interministerial committee. I am delighted to invite all members of this Legislature to visit Knoxville during the months of May through October to grasp the significance of the credibility of Ontario's programs in terms of both the rest of Canada and the world.

What of the future? Currently, as I mentioned earlier, over 40 per cent of the province's oil consumption is utilized in the transportation industry. I have also mentioned the goals of this government in substituting other forms of fuel in the transportation sector. But our ultimate goal would be to replace current transportation fuels with a clean, available indigenous source. We see that source as taking the form of hydrogen produced from the electrolysis of water. Research is currently under way in Ontario through the Institute for Hydrogen and Electrochemical Systems headed by Dr. David Scott and the Urban Transportation Development Corp. to develop an onboard method of transporting hydrogen fuel.

The province's electrical generating capacity can be maximized by the production of hydrogen. Hydrogen's use as a transportation fuel, or in the upgrading of existing reserves of fossil fuel in this country, or as a substitute for natural gas in the production of ammonia-type fertilizers for agriculture, has enormous potential to bring this province into the next decade free of any dependence on the rest of the world for a supply of energy.

The challenges of meeting our self-sufficiency goals in energy are themselves formidable. The public perception of the import of these goals is weakened in the face of declining world oil prices, but make no mistake about it, what happened to the industrialized world in 1973 could happen again at any time. The major oil supplies of the world are in the hands of some of the most unstable governments which would be prepared at any time to pounce should we let down our guard. This government remains

committed to its goals. Its policies and direction complement this commitment.

8:20 p.m.

Mr. J. A. Reed: Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to be able to rise in this House and speak to this speech from the throne. I had a great deal of difficulty containing myself when I heard the member for Lincoln delivering government propaganda, obviously written by the government caucus speakers' service, telling us—

Interjections.

Mr. J. A. Reed: I was trying to go easy on the member for Lincoln, but if he wrote that garbage then he really does not know what he is talking about. Let us at least blame their speakers' service.

I would like to address a few of the comments made by the member for Lincoln. He talked about a clean transportation fuel and he spent a great deal of time saying that one of the most significant areas for saving energy and becoming self-sufficient in energy was in the transportation sector, which accounts for nearly 50 per cent of the energy utilized in this province.

Mr. Andrewes: Forty, I said.

Mr. J. A. Reed: Forty per cent, that is fine. Then he went on to tell us that the future lay in the production of hydrogen and the application of hydrogen as a transportation fuel. Let me point out a couple of things. Let us set the record straight in the beginning. I am very encouraged by the prospects for the proper utilization of hydrogen, not only in Ontario but on a world basis. I see the first use for hydrogen is for aircraft because it has some very distinct advantages.

But let me point out that the conversion of hydrogen in terms of British thermal units for use in the general transportation sector cannot compete with other forms of clean energy. The honourable member, if he is up on energy, should know that hydrogen conversion is the least efficient of all the conversions. If one uses electricity to convert to hydrogen, one better be using it for a very high end use. That is why air transport is going to be the first use for hydrogen and not ground transport.

Let me tell the members that in 1978, on this side of the House, we asked the government once again, for the third time, to open up the prospect of producing alcohol fuels using Ontario resources. The government went back and announced, three times I believe, that \$150,000 was finally being spent on a study for a methanol plant in Edwardsburgh in eastern Ontario.

We were told so many times in this Legislature that our program of converting Ontario resources to the alcohol fuels that are clean and can be used in the transportation sector efficiently just was not on; it would not work. Let me tell the members something. Today I read in *Canadian Renewable Energy News*, printed in Ottawa, that a deal has been finalized between the federal government and Quebec to build and operate the initial methanol plant using cellulosic waste, using forest waste, for transportation fuel.

Ontario has blown it again. It has missed the golden opportunity and is going to be trying to jump on the train after the caboose has left the station. It has done it time and time again. Sooner or later, the government will come full circle and in two, three or four years' time there will be a grand announcement that we will be back into the alcohol fuel business for transportation.

The 1980s are the biggest challenge we have ever faced in this province. Our economy is in desperate trouble. The government has so far done nothing but blame the federal government for these ills. Yet we know the resources, and the prospect for resource development in this province, are still unequal. Last year we spent \$11 billion bringing energy into our province. That \$11 billion is gone forever. The government still continues to blame the feds. In 1978 we pointed out to this government that the resources are here in Ontario, available to the government to develop and exploit, and that the \$650 million blown on 25 per cent of Suncor could have produced 7,000 permanent jobs in northern Ontario.

I was in the town of Hearst last November, and the only industry that was turning wheels on an active basis in Hearst was an energy industry. The lumber industry was shut down. That great company, Levesque Lumber (Hearst) Ltd., was shut down. The member who represents that riding is here tonight and he should be ashamed at the way his government has performed in northern Ontario. I saw the one company that was a bright light, and it was an energy company.

Time and time again we have tried to impress on this Legislature that the great opportunity, the \$11-billion windfall that is waiting for this province in terms of its employment and economic spinoff is in fact in energy.

The member for Lincoln can talk all he likes about the great initiatives that he says his government has undertaken in the form of

energy. The initiatives amount to virtually nothing. He even went so far in his misguided statement as to say that Ontario, and I guess I have to paraphrase it, had exhausted all of its major water power potential. The member ought to know there is more water power potential still available to Ontario than is harnessed at the present time.

The ministry that he purports to represent knows that now and has finally, after five years of persuasion and arm twisting, put in a couple of demonstration units in the Ministry of Natural Resources. After five years of castigation and persuasion on the part of the opposition they have finally come up with some lease agreements that will allow for the redevelopment of small hydraulic power in Ontario.

I would like to tell those members on the opposite side a little bit about hydraulic power and what is happening. The member for Lincoln particularly should realize that China is fast becoming the most energy self-sufficient country in terms of electricity in the world. This year, Communist China, of all places, has 90,000 hydraulic power units in place and operating. Last year they installed 11,000 units and next year they will be installing 15,000 more units.

Can members imagine the energy security that provides to a nation? Here we are in Ontario, the most vulnerable electric power producers in spite of the fact that we have a successful electric generating utility. We have it all confined in the large megawatt farms. If one of those farms goes out for one reason or another, Ontario will suddenly become desperately short of power.

I relate that to the Chinese experience and I relate that to the potential in Ontario for diversifying electric power generation, which this government denied for years and only now is paying a little lip-service to because the Energy critic on the opposite side of the House persisted over all this time.

Mr. Wildman: Doesn't your arm get sore when you pat yourself on the back like that?

Mr. J. A. Reed: I am not very prone to blowing my own horn but the obvious takes a long time to be assessed by this government.

8:30 p.m.

I would like to talk a little bit about one of the great political and economic blunders of the government of Ontario. That, of course, is that exorbitant purchase, at the worst possible economic time in this province, of 25 per cent of that oil company known as Suncor. As the

months and the days go on, the situation gets worse and worse. That such an incredibly bad judgement call could have been made must be a total embarrassment to that side of the House.

By the time the \$650 million now committed on the surface is paid for with interest, if we are capable of paying for it, it will cost this government and the people of Ontario more than \$2 billion. Two billion dollars for what?

Can anybody tell us why we are going to spend more than \$2 billion to purchase 25 per cent of Suncor? We have been trying to figure it out for months, and we cannot figure out why this money has been spent.

Will it create one new job in Ontario? The Premier (Mr. Davis) says, "No, it will not." Any new industry in Ontario? The Premier says, "No, it will not." We asked, "Why did you buy it?" He said, "Well, it will give us a window on the oil industry." Isn't that wonderful? A window on the oil industry.

A telephone call to Ottawa, to Petro-Canada, is substantially cheaper than \$650 million plus interest. It really is.

This is the time when all of the potential sits in northern Ontario, and if I were a member from northern Ontario at this time, I would be ashamed to sit on the government side of the House because of all of the potential that is totally wasted.

The economic recovery of northern Ontario could have been launched for \$650 million. In northern Ontario today, towns and villages are dying, especially the one-industry towns that depend on exporting lumber to the United States. The markets are not there.

Northern Ontario members know very well that the markets are not there. They do know that there is one feeble bright light, not assisted in any way by the provincial government. Called Bio-Shell, it represents the utilization of forest wastes, the stuff that so many people say has a negative value in the province but we know now has a very positive value. That one, little, private enterprise bright light is shining there. Yet the government continues to ignore the potential. It is disgraceful. When the next election comes along, the depressed people in northern Ontario are going to remember how they have been treated.

I told the Minister of Energy (Mr. Welch) some time ago that the 1980s are a time for a Minister of Energy in particular to be creative, to be innovative and to go where no one has gone before. It is a time to try new ventures. It is

a time to move into new fields. It is a time to set up pilot experiments with new technology.

The minister knew he would not be criticized by this critic for trying things, even if they did not work as well as he expected or wanted them to work. He had that commitment time and time again from this critic, but he chose not to take advantage of it. He chose not to move into new areas. Now we have the federal and the Quebec governments' announcement that they are going into the methanol business with a pilot plant. Ontario will be left picking up the rear as it has done so many times before. It is one more missed opportunity.

I cannot let the moment go by without mentioning the electric power utility that was talked about by the member for Lincoln. Ontario Hydro has been a great asset to Ontario. It has been of great benefit.

When we look back into history at rural electrification and at the uses to which electricity has been put, we cannot help but marvel at that wonder started by Sir Adam Beck, who was inspired by a Kitchener farmer, called Kilowatt Abe, who had a one-kilowatt generating plant running. Adam Beck saw it and thought what a wonderful thing it would be if everybody could benefit from electric power.

The member for Lincoln chuckles over that little anecdote, but it happens to be true. If he will study his history before he stands up in the Legislature the next time, he will know something whereof he speaks.

The fact is that politics has interfered in that great utility and we have got to a point where decisions have been made that have been erroneous and are costing the electric power consumers of Ontario unconscionable amounts of money.

The member for Lincoln talks about the incredible building program that is going on at present. I ask him to consider that the building program is now 50 per cent greater than it should be, and the only reason it is continuing is that the lead times are so great and the judgement calls were so bad in 1975 and 1976, when Hydro and the government were warned about the slowdown in growth, that Hydro and the government feel compelled to continue for fear of losing face. Now, in desperation, they are talking about the prospects of building a cable under Lake Erie and selling power to General Public Utilities.

The power we are producing is too expensive for us to export. We cannot compete with Hydro-Québec and its ability to sell power from

its LG-2 development to the United States. The reason for that is that we did not continue to develop our hydraulic resources. Instead, we were told that nuclear power would do everything for us that could be done. How wrong we were.

I have no quarrel with nuclear technology. I do not use the arguments that some of my friends in other parties have used in the past about nuclear power. But if I were making judgement calls about the kinds of electric power facilities I would be developing, I think I would at least look at economics as a base. The utility is no longer in a position even to look at the economics.

It is a sad fact that the judgement call made to go ahead with massive nuclear development was not an economic judgement call. It was a political judgement call, and it continues to be. The deeper we get into it and the more waste there is in the system, the more the government has to keep shoring itself up to keep from looking so terrible in terms of this judgement call.

Mr. Wildman: That's not what Ernie Massicotte says in Elliot Lake.

Mr. J. A. Reed: I will just tell the Socialist member who made that comment that I have no quarrel with nuclear power, but I say it has to be put in its place in terms of the economics of electric power production, and it has not and is not being put in its place. I am sorry to see that, because I think nuclear power has an excellent future in this province.

One of the things that concerns me so greatly is that if we continue to overbuild our nuclear program in the way we are doing, we will create a bubble that will ultimately collapse and all of the talent and the expertise that is in the nuclear industry at present will disappear. Can the government not understand that? Obviously not.

Mr. Kerr: Export, export, export.

Mr. J. A. Reed: I hear the member for Burlington South giving his last hurrah, talking about the export of electric power. I ask the member to write a few numbers down and tell those of us on this side of the House how nuclear power, at the incredible cost that Darlington is costing, can ever compete with the hydraulic power that will be sold out of Hydro-Québec.

The member for Burlington South can talk exports until he is blue in the face but, since he knows very well that when it costs at least \$3,500 or \$4,000 a kilowatt to put the Darlington

nuclear plant in, I would ask him to use a little judgement, because he is a tiny bit off base.

8:40 p.m.

I have had the honour of being appointed Natural Resources critic under my new and great leader, the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson), a man whom I believe will become the next Premier of Ontario. He and I believe that natural resources are the linchpin of the economic recovery of this province. There are so many opportunities waiting in the development of natural resources that they are hard to count. I will try to recount a few of the major ones tonight.

In the forest industry today, we waste upwards of 50 per cent of what we harvest; I am not counting the undesirable species but just the cut timber that is left in the bush, the tops, the limbs and what is loosely known as the slash, the mill waste that is lying beside the mill and so on. That accounts for at least 50 per cent of our forest industry. It is a resource that at this point is virtually unutilized in this province. We consider it a waste.

Yet there are a couple of bright spots. The Great Lakes Paper Co. has discovered recently that the use of hog fuel to generate electric power for use in its system can be a great financial asset. I have been told that the paper industry has the potential to be totally self-sufficient using that kind of fuel. Yet I see no encouragement by the government to continue that process.

I have been speaking with some industries about an element called cogeneration, where an industry could generate 24 hours a day and feed power into the Ontario grid during its off hours. We still have not been able to arrive at prices that are acceptable to those people who would produce power on a cogeneration base.

As I said earlier, there is one industry that has developed a process for pelletizing mill waste. They have been so successful that they are committed to 10 plants by 1985. Yet we know that the construction of 10 plants on that base will not put a significant dent in the opportunity that awaits us there. Instead, we see the federal-Quebec methanol agreement, which should have been made by an adventurous Minister of Energy in Ontario.

Resources, especially forest resources, should not be considered finite; they should be considered renewable. We have always referred to them as renewable resources, but the House should know that in Ontario, because of mis-

management, our forests are actually rapidly becoming finite.

I ask the government to let us know where we are going to get an abundance of timber within the next 20 years. That is the period when my children will be grown up and in the work force. Where are we going to get that abundance of timber when we run out?

Since 1971, we have had about seven million acres of land in northern Ontario lying bare and unregenerated because of a government that did not know how to manage the forest resource. The irony is that about one third of the cuttable part of that is unregenerated because there is that slash, the timber lying on top of the ground, which has not been harvested or utilized.

We have incredible opportunities awaiting us, opportunities missed by a government that has been concerned only with the rape of the resource industry and not with the proper management of the resource industry.

Maybe it has not always been politically popular to properly manage and commit monies to the reforestation of this province, but our children and grandchildren are going to wonder who the lunatics were who were governing this province for 38 or 40 years who could not see fit properly to replant the province.

I refer back to the promise made in 1977 in the now infamous Brampton charter, which said there would be two trees for one. Every year since then we have had a new 160,000 acres of land in northern Ontario left bare and unregenerated by an uncaring government which is sensitive only to re-election and not in command of where it is going or taking the province.

We have an alternative and a great new leader. I will give notice to this government that in the next election, whether it be 1984 or 1985—

Mr. Andrewes: In 1986.

Mr. J. A. Reed: Or 1986; I hear the member for Lincoln saying 1986. It is possible that in desperation the government might try to hang on that extra year but, whenever it happens, we are ready; and I hope the devastation will not have been too great by the time we take over the reins of government.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, there are a number of comments I want to make in my first speech to the Legislature since I resumed my role as the member for Ottawa Centre.

I hate to disappoint the member for Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Lane), because I think he might know what to expect. Normally in a throne

speech debate, I would be expected to call down the Conservatives for failing to come to grips with Ontario's problems and to speak out for the needs of my constituents, the people of Ottawa Centre.

I want to break with that tradition and pattern today to speak about a problem which I believe is of overwhelming importance, not just for my constituents but for everyone in Ontario. The problem is the impact of technological change and what that change may do to our province over the course of the next couple of decades.

I want to make a specific proposal today which I hope will be considered seriously and urgently by all members in the Legislature and particularly by the Premier (Mr. Davis) and the government. Since the member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Ramsay) is the only minister in the House right now, I hope he will take this proposal back to the Premier and the government, particularly since he is the Minister of Labour.

I believe it is time for this Legislature to establish a select committee on the social and economic impact of technological change, a select committee that would have a high profile, a decent budget and a mandate to chart a direction and to recommend policies for Ontario to respond to the revolutionary impact of technological change based on microelectronics.

The model I have in mind is the select committee on economic and cultural nationalism, which this Legislature established back in 1971. I want to devote the rest of this speech to explaining why we need a new select committee, what kinds of problems we are facing with technological change and what kinds of policies seem to me to make sense for Ontario.

I do not pretend to have the final word, because the longer I have thought about what is happening to us now and the more I have read and reflected in the past few months, the more I have realized that we in this Legislature, and I mean all of us, simply do not have the answers to ensure that Ontario is protected against the risks of technological change and to ensure that the benefits of technological change are fairly shared among all of our citizens. I am not even sure we even have the right questions. That is one of the reasons we have to become sensitized to what is happening to the point where we can start to provide some leadership to our province from this Legislature.

8:50 p.m.

Let me start by asking what is happening. One way to find what is happening is to look at the

latest figures from Statistics Canada. Unemployment in Ontario is at a post-war record. Our unemployment rate has not been higher since the Great Depression. And this is not just a one-shot thing. In every economic cycle since the late 1960s we have wound up with a higher rate of unemployment than the last round.

Not only that, but our government seems to have given up the fight for full employment and has run out of ideas about how to get Canadians and Ontarians back to work. I would say that applies to both levels of government.

Late in March I got a leaflet at my home in Ottawa from the Ottawa Centre Provincial Liberal Association which said, "Help support the realistic alternative." At the same time, my community newspaper had an advertisement, saying: "Did you go Liberal in 1980? There is an alternative. Join us, the Progressive Conservative Party." I am confused by that. I believe we represent the alternative.

The fact is that Canadians and Ontarians need to go back to work. They are not doing it, and we have to look at the fundamental reasons why.

The throne speech said recovery was just around the corner, but the assurances we have been getting like that are getting more and more empty the longer they come up. When interest rates, inflation and unemployment are all at or near record levels something is pretty seriously wrong. Every week we get news of new layoffs, new shutdowns and new bankruptcies.

What is so scary is that we are in this situation just at the time we are embarked on a new wave of technological change whose impact may be as great as the industrial revolution. But the industrial revolution was spread over a century and a half, and this new microelectronic revolution is being spread over only a decade and a half.

Some members probably know about the development of computers during the Second World War and how they have advanced since then. They probably recall those gloomy forecasts about the impact of automation which were made back in the 1950s and 1960s. Those results never quite seem to have come to pass. In fact, there has been a tendency to assume that because those IBM monsters did not throw everyone out of work we would somehow cope with what was coming next.

On the basis of what I have learned in the past few weeks, I am not so sure. We may be okay in Ottawa-Carleton, because the Ottawa Valley has become the hottest centre for high technol-

ogy in Canada, particularly with new, big, growing Canadian-owned firms like Mitel, Gandalf and Nabu. But the impact of microelectronics and all the technology it is spawning, and the speed with which these developments are starting to spread, are devastating.

The revolution is just beginning to take off. We have been gathering speed slowly through the course of the 1970s, but now we are in a period of exponential growth. Some estimates are that by the end of the decade there will be an industry that has a hundred times the computer power in operation that there is today.

Let me take members back to 1971, the year a number of us were first elected to the Ontario Legislature. That was also the first year that Intel in California developed a microprocessor, the computer on a chip, which forms the basis of the new technological revolution.

Last year, I brought a small computer home to see what it would do. I wanted to learn a bit about programming and to play with it a bit after I stepped down as leader. It is so small it fits in a briefcase, yet that little computer can run rings around the most powerful computer IBM could supply 25 years ago.

A few weeks ago I added a printer to that home machine. Hours after it was home, my 14-year-old son Matthew had the machine cranking out my correspondence just as if he had been a secretary with 14 years of experience. His father is a bit slower at these things, but the speech I am holding in my hand right now was written and edited last night on this machine at home. For about \$2,000, it allows me or anybody else to do at home something that used to require an office, a secretary and all of the other trappings of a large corporation.

That is but one example, and we are just at the beginning. In a few years, the computer has been transformed. It used to be a big, powerful, centralized technology that would only work in large government departments or large corporations like General Motors, Chrysler, International Harvester, Massey-Ferguson and all those other corporate dinosaurs. Now the computer fits in your pocket, in your microwave oven, in your electric drill, in your typewriter, in your phone, in your machine tool, and it may take your job.

Last year, the Ontario Task Force on Microelectronics estimated that between now and 1990 there will be a one-thousandfold increase in distributed computing power per Ontario household, up to about a million bits per household. One assumes that applies to industry as well.

To give a comparison, right now the average home may have a calculator, a digital watch, a musical calculator or maybe a couple of toys for the kids and, in rare instances, a computer or a Speak and Spell—just a few thousand bits of computing power. That will rise to a million bits by the end of just a decade. One assumes that will happen in industry too.

One has to ask what the effects will be. One of the background papers for the microelectronics task force gave some estimates. It was pretty sanguine. It said the impact on employment in Ontario would be minimal. I find that kind of optimism hard to share. A lot of the people who have examined the impact of microelectronics are downright pessimistic.

Barrie Sherman and Dave Clive Jenkins, who are trade union spokesmen in Britain, say the new chip technologies are going to cut employment by almost one quarter in Britain by the turn of the century. If one transposes that to Ontario, that would mean we would lose a million jobs from what we have today.

The President of France commissioned an authoritative report, which estimates that employment in banking and insurance will be cut by 30 per cent in that country. If one applies that to Ontario, that would be a cut of 76,000 jobs here.

We have seen the growth of those without jobs as a reality in big corporations now for 20 years in Canada and the United States. Almost all our increases in employment have come from small and medium-sized firms. But what we are now seeing are cuts, and those cuts are coming on a massive scale. Bell Telephone has cut back its operators in Ontario and Quebec from 13,600 in 1969 to 7,400 in 1979 with the introduction of new digital technology, and it is not finished yet.

General Electric and Philips are talking about cutting their work forces by half on a world scale. In the past decade, Western Electric in the United States has done just that and has reduced its work force in telecommunications from 39,000 to 17,000.

In Belleville, in eastern Ontario, AEL Microtel has moved from conventional switching to digital switching equipment. In the course of four or five years, it has gone from 1,000 jobs to 600, and I believe production has actually increased.

In Germany, Siemens has done a study which estimates that office employment can be cut by 40 per cent with the new technology. Bringing that back to Ontario, it would mean 309,000 jobs lost in this province for people in clerical work.

The word processors that are now being delivered every day in Toronto, Ottawa, Hamilton and Red Lake can double or even treble the output of the average typist.

In Washington, the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that new chip technologies may reduce semi-skilled jobs in the automobile industry, which is already having its problems, by a further 20 per cent. Again that would mean 18,000 to 20,000 jobs here in Ontario.

In Germany, one engineer with a computerized plotter can turn out the same amount of work as two junior engineers and 15 technical draughtsmen. One asks, "What does that mean for one million Ontarians who are now in management and professional jobs?" That equipment is being sold in this province right now for \$40,000 or \$50,000 or \$60,000. I have seen it in operation. It is quite wonderful what it can do, except when one thinks about what happens to the people whose jobs are displaced and who will buy the products or the goods that will be designed and built by robots or computers.

9 p.m.

The comparisons and the estimates go on and on. On the positive side, there is an estimate that the high-tech industries will create 100,000 jobs in Canada over the next decade and most of those jobs will be in Ontario. Some of the people in Ottawa-Carleton expect all of that growth will be in the Ottawa Valley.

It is a fact that economies of scale are no longer such a big factor in industry with microtechnology and therefore this new technology could help Canadian industries solve the problems of short production runs and frequent design changes and help us to compete against the big markets of Japan, the United States and the European Common Market. Computers and microprocessors can take over work which is dreary or which is dangerous and that could be a blessing if the people who were displaced could move to other jobs. I repeat, that could be a blessing if the people who are displaced can move to other jobs.

The plain fact is no one knows what the net impact on jobs will be from this new technological wave of change. There is no authoritative estimate in the Ontario Task Force on Microelectronics. The Science Council of Canada does not know and the Institute for Research on Public Policy does not know. Of all of the people I have talked to or whose writings I have read, nobody really knows for sure exactly what is happening. That is scary, because there is a lot of evidence which says we know the kind of job

reductions that can take place because of the new technology and we are not sure where the new jobs are going to come from.

There is a lot of evidence as well that indicates in the period of recession we are in right now, rather than try and expand and build new products that will create new dynamism in the economy, what is happening is that we are getting products that replace products that are currently on the market. The experts call it capital deepening rather than capital broadening. What that means is we are doing what we are doing already, but doing it with fewer people and with more capital equipment based on microtechnology.

For the past half century we have seen a pattern of growth by which manufacturing employment or its share in the economy fell but that was offset by service jobs that were continually on the increase. The situation we face now is that process seems to have come to an end. No more jobs will disappear from the primary sectors of agriculture and mining and so on because we are down to rock bottom in those sectors already.

But in manufacturing, jobs are threatened by robots, by numerically controlled machine tools and by other forms of new technology, as well as by US and by offshore competition—not to forget the many people who nominally work in manufacturing but who are in fact manipulating information, providing clerical support and that kind of thing for the blue-collar worker on the production line; their jobs, as well, are threatened by new white-collar technology.

Can the service sector take up the slack this time? The answer is, not this time. The service sector is undercapitalized. The average worker has two or three thousand dollars of capital behind him. He has a desk, a typewriter, a Dictaphone, some paper clips and a telephone and that is about it. Therefore, it is a ripe field for microtechnology investments. There have been such low increases in productivity in the service sector that there is a tremendous potential for new technologies to change the way people work.

What about governments? Can governments take up the slack? The fact is that governments have been busily trying to get away from being the employer of last resort. Governments have been cutting back programs and letting staff go. There have been 5,000 employees cut from the Ontario government service over the course of the last three or four years.

Then where will the new jobs come from?

That is one of the questions I believe the select committee which should be set up in this Legislature could be looking at, because right now I do not know and there are a lot of people who do not know either.

There is a good deal of evidence that the impact of microtechnology may be greatest in the areas where workers are the least protected. After all, unionized workers have at least some means—and I stress only some means—of getting co-operation from their employers in anticipating and in adapting to technological change. Some means that 99 per cent of the contracts which are in force in the country right now do not have a clause which permits the unions to reopen a contract to bargain over a major element in technological change. In other words, very few unions are in a position to resist if managements come in and try to change the rules of the game between the opening of a contract and its ending.

The hardest hit workers are likely to be in the service industries, people in shops and banks and offices. People in shops hardly have unions, apart from the supermarkets. People in banks hardly have unions and efforts to unionize there have met with constant resistance and all sorts of management tricks and tactics. Something like one office worker in six is organized and 85 per cent of workers in offices are not.

In the main, that means the people who will be hit by the technological changes taking place will be the people who work in shops, banks, offices and services. That means women who already are underpaid, under-rated and underunionized in our economy. The people who will be equally hit will be those workers who do not now have jobs. There are 390,000 workers currently unemployed. There are workers who lack skills. There are 150,000 workers who have simply given up and dropped out of the labour market for a while because no jobs are available. Most of all, there are those young workers fresh on the job market who already make up half the unemployment list in Ontario.

Because one does not see the changes of technology dramatically, one sees them differently. It is when 1,000 workers are laid off because a company has to cut back production and only 850 are taken back a month and a half later. It is when 10 or 15 retirees leave a plant after 30 years of faithful service and one or two technicians are taken on to replace them so that two jobs are created where 10 disappeared.

It is attrition because young workers traditionally change jobs or perhaps decide to go and

study and then go back to work. It is because somebody did not work out, is dismissed and is not replaced. It is that kind of gradual erosion that is taking place.

Young workers coming on to the job market today find the doors are closed. The opportunities to get experience are more and more limited. They find themselves more and more unskilled in an economy where one is either very skilled and very much in demand or else one is very unskilled and has great difficulty in getting any kind of a job at all. My sister's company in Ottawa is actively recruiting programmers and people like that in England because it cannot get them here.

Mr. Wildman: This government is not doing a thing about it.

Mr. Cassidy: Exactly. I met somebody today in this Legislature who came to see what was happening in the Ontario Legislature. He graduated from university two years ago. I said, "What have you been doing since then?" I hate to say it but he has been unemployed for the last two years. He is a university graduate and he is only one of hundreds of thousands in Ontario who already face that. The new technologies which will compound the problems have hardly yet begun to hit.

The next question is: can we stop what is happening? Can we stand in the way of progress? Can we, like King Canute, take our sword out and get the sea to roll back and leave Ontario unscathed? The answer is maybe, but not for long. In the microelectronics industry, to have even two years' lead in a particular product or technology is to have a big jump on the competition. There is extraordinary pressure to create new products and perfect old ones.

The computer is only 25 or 30 years old. It is now into the fifth or sixth major generation. As I have said before, the computer that used to fill a room the size of this legislative chamber will now fit into a briefcase or something smaller and they are working on making it smaller still.

The costs of microcircuits keep dropping by about 30 per cent per year. The silicon chips on which microprocessors are based had about 70,000 transistors on them last year. There are eight or 10 transistors in a radio. In three years, there will be up to one million circuits, and in 10 years there will be up to 10 million circuits, all on a chip about the size of a baby's thumbnail. That is what we are facing.

That means the brain power which has traditionally been the contribution people make is now being matched by computers and by com-

puterized communication which can quite literally take skills from people and do it for them, replicating it indefinitely. This can provide robots that will work for \$6 an hour, day in and day out, when it costs \$10 or \$15 to have a worker do the job. A robot can be put into a factory at a cost little more than the cost of a luxury automobile.

Two hundred years ago, the industrial revolution brought steam and water power to do the jobs which heretofore had relied almost entirely on human or animal muscle. Every kind of manufacturing was affected and before long transportation was revolutionized by the train and the steamship.

9:10 p.m.

That is the kind of change we face now. But it is not brawn that is being beefed up or replaced by machines; it is brain power. The reason microtechnology is so different and unpredictable from anything we have seen over the course of the last 30 or 50 years is because it cuts across every existing technology and threatens or promises to change that technology.

If I can make a comparison: television, for example, is a radical technology that has changed our lives in many ways. Yet television has had very little impact on the way people actually do their jobs in factories, which stayed very much the same from the invention of the fractional horsepower electric motor up until a few years ago with the introduction of new kinds of technologies.

A technological drive is pushing industry here and around the world to think up new uses for microtechnology and to make them a reality. With those new uses—robots, numerically controlled machine tools, automatic warehouses, word processors or electronic mail which could reduce the need for mailmen by half in the course of a few years—jobs are on the line because major industries will undergo radical change and in some cases will disappear entirely.

There are not just new types of machines which will sit in factories or offices, there are new kinds and forms of communications which we have never known before. The Saskatchewan government with Northern Telecom Canada Ltd. is building a system of fibre optics communications which will give a rural, isolated household more communication power, in terms of TV and other forms of information, than anybody can get in the biggest cities of our country or our continent today.

In Ottawa, Mitel has an electronic mail

system which links its offices and factories in five continents of the world, allowing an executive to communicate with another executive literally overnight or in a matter of seconds.

If I can give an example that came to me the other day—I hope members do not take it up—one could go down to the Eaton Centre this evening before Eaton's closes at 9:30 p.m. and be measured for a custom-made suit. The measurements could be transmitted electronically to Singapore and one of the famous Singapore tailors could make a suit in 24 hours, put it on a plane and three days later, at noon on Saturday, one would be able to go to Eaton's and pick up a suit that had been custom-made half a world away. Those kinds of things are now possible.

If we try to ignore these changes in the competitive world, we risk seeing our economy driven to the ground by a flood of microtechnologically efficient imports. That may, in fact, be happening already if one looks at the deepening of and the expansion of the manufactured-goods trade imbalance in this province and country.

The question we have to face, therefore, is not how to stop technological change, but how to shape that change in order to benefit people in Ontario. That is the question that was not addressed in the throne speech and that we ought to address in this Legislature. I might say it was mentioned in the 1980 throne speech that set up the task force on microelectronics. I will come to that a bit later. That thrust was a temporary one which seems to have come to fruition when, in fact, it should have been continued.

We face choices about the future in this province, and I want to talk a bit about those choices. The choice that we seem to have made right now is to drift into the future, to react to what happens and to hope that we can muddle through somehow.

To be fair to the government, it is proceeding with the microelectronics technology centre in Ottawa, which I welcomed, and with the five or six other research and development centres in other parts of the province, including centres that will be devoted to robotics and to computer-assisted design and manufacturing. But this effort is small. Each centre will have maybe a dozen or two dozen researchers and scientists. The centres are scattered across the province. They will take time to mature; it will be several years before those centres begin to be useful. It does not speak to the basic need for policy and

for legislation that will help Ontario benefit rather than suffer from technological change.

Our choice right now is to continue to drift or to develop a policy. Our choice is to leave the design of the new technology exclusively in the hands of engineers and of entrepreneurs, in many cases in the hands of businesses and entrepreneurs and engineers working outside Canada. Or we can try to make the new technology fit the needs of our workers, of our citizens and of our industries here in Ontario. We could just hope for the best or we can—and I believe we should—start now to prepare our workers, our managers and our students for the kind of work place and the kind of society we want for the 1990s.

I am not kidding when I say we should talk about the kind of society we want a decade hence. So much has been attained through the new technology in so little time that we genuinely have an opportunity to create a more desirable future rather than simply letting the future happen to us. Usually these changes take place over a matter of generations. We cannot get a handle on it. I am not sure we can get a handle on it right now, but the changes are occurring over a period of time in which we can plan what to do, in which we can intervene and do it, and in which we can actually see the results.

What depressed me—and I was depressed when I came back into this House from the March break—was to realize that with the Davis government we seem to be firmly heading away from where we could and should go in dealing with technological change. I asked myself over the last week or so as I was preparing this speech if this government had any kind of broader purpose to offer to Ontario—or perhaps I might say that the federal Liberal government has to offer in Canada.

The Constitution is out of the way. I will be on Parliament Hill Saturday when the Queen finally brings it home. We welcome it and will put it into a little vat somewhere on the grounds of Parliament Hill. If we were in Britain right now we could at least unite temporarily behind the armada that is sailing for the Falkland Islands. But here in this province is it going to be simply that the Tories will keep holding on to power for dear life as long as they can? Is that to be the agenda for the rest of the people of the province?

Can we not find a way to exploit the new technology to give people more input into local government and know what is going on? They

can see it in their homes; they can interact with it in their homes. Can we find means to provide more independence for our senior citizens so that they can live more independently and yet still get together with other people in the community rather than being moved into a nursing home?

Can we create new ways of bringing people together, in apartments, in neighbourhoods where they are now faceless communities and face-to-face communication is a rarity? I fear as I read my *Ottawa Citizen* and the *Toronto Star* and all the *Lifestyle* features there, the agenda for the 1980s might simply be looking out for number one, to be a survivor, to find some way to muddle through the decade and to prepare for the 1990s.

One of the advantages of the new technology is that there are strong positive potentials to it. It can liberate managers and workers from a lot of drudgery and routine. It can cut out back-breaking work and give ordinary workers enormous responsibilities. It can mean that productivity is a matter of how the brainpower and the machinery is used rather than how many times we can put a widget into a machine tool or how many times we can do some mindless task which people have had to do since the industrial revolution.

The new technology can bring up-to-date information and feedback straight to the work place so that workers can actually supervise their own work. They can do their own quality control; they can know hour by hour whether the goods they are producing are up to standard or not. The new technology can allow workers to monitor occupational health and safety themselves rather than having to depend on the boss. That is pretty positive.

That kind of desirable development has to be chosen because the alternative is already here as well; that is the kind of Big Brother technology that makes work a prison. I think of the computerized means by which postal clerks who sit at the coding machines now are monitored every hour, every minute, almost every second during which they produce. It is the same with the supermarket cashiers, the typists and telephone operators who are measured on every word, on every keystroke and every second they spend on the job. I would hate to have to work under those circumstances and conditions. That is something that exists right now here in Ontario.

Which choice should we make? There is no question in my mind. It is not just because

workers are happier if they are given responsibility and autonomy, it is also because the kinds of shocks we are going to face demand that our industry and our society be flexible and able to react to unpredictable change.

9:20 p.m.

Some members may have read about that poor couple from British Columbia who, along with their children, decided to get away from and avoid the dangers of nuclear war, so they moved to the Falkland Islands a year and a half ago. Now look at what they face with it being occupied by 8,000 or 9,000 Argentinian troops.

Who would have predicted that the price of oil would quadruple or quintuple over the course of the last four or five years because of what has happened in the Middle East? Who would have predicted—certainly this government did not predict—that the bottom would start to fall out of the oil market just after Ontario had bought into the top of the market and taken 25 per cent of Suncor? What is going to happen next? What is going to be a winner or a loser? Nobody knows about that.

Is air travel going to continue or will we all meet in teleconference meeting rooms and never stir from our office at the corner of King and Bay because it is too expensive to travel. One cannot even bet on which industry will be the winner because we are in such a state of flux right now.

Under the circumstances, one cannot simply have an engineer design a machine which is perfect for all eventualities and will never break down, and then give out a little manual and tell the worker that this is what he has to do. There must be a worker who can respond to the crises. There must be an organization that can respond to the crises as well, and for that one cannot have an autocratic, from the top down kind of organization. One must have an organization where values and attitudes change, where information is shared and, dare I say it, where power is going to be shared as well.

We are not going to survive in the 1980s or the 1990s if management wants to continue to call all the shots and continues to treat workers as though they are fresh off the boat, as though they are fresh off the farm, as though this is 1900 and as though workers have nothing to contribute except their muscle.

I am afraid, as we move on in the 1980s—and we are well into the 1980s right now—the signals coming from the Ontario government are all too clear and they are very depressing. Instead of being open to what may happen and building

towards the potential of what we could achieve in this province—and we have potential in this province; I have spent most of my life in Ontario and I believe in the province, I know we have the potential; I just wish we knew how to achieve it—rather than moving in that direction, our human resources are being run down.

They are being run down in the wave of shutdowns and layoffs now taking place in Ontario. They are being run down by the way workers are being told they are going to have to accept takebacks and wage cuts if they are going to have a job at all, and that is the way it is going to be. They are being run down when the governor of the Bank of Canada takes a huge pay increase and the doctors in this province take a huge pay increase while workers, who have not had a real increase in their wages over the course of the last seven or eight years overall, are told they are being unpatriotic if they try to get something that will allow them to pay the interest on their mortgage.

The severance pay that we in this party fought for and got from the government is so inadequate it is far cheaper for a business to lay off a worker when times are tough than it is to scrap a piece of machinery. When a piece of machinery is scrapped, whatever value is left has to be written off and is deducted as a direct charge from profits. When a worker is laid off or fired, however, the chances are that he or she can be scrapped at virtually no cost to the company.

When machines have a higher value than people, and when that situation is tolerated by the government, it is small wonder that many industries refuse to take responsibility for their human resources; that they refuse to take responsibility for training and for upgrading their workers. It is small wonder when they feel no pressure from government, even though we are entering an era in which workers will need to be continually retrained if they are to work effectively. It is not just a matter of going on to the job at the age of 18 or 21 and being trained for life; one is going to have to be trained every five or 10 years if one is going to continue to have a job in the kind of technological revolutionary phase we have entered and are going to be embarking on.

Ontario has a responsibility to show leadership. It is interesting to me, if I can give a small example, that the province has been researching the electronic office of the future for the past few years for application within the civil service. What is disturbing to me, and I hope the minister takes this back to his colleagues, is that

the government is making decisions which will affect its workers in fundamental ways right down to whether or not they have their jobs. Yet it has still to ask the Ontario Public Service Employees Union which represents those workers to join in the research to make sure the workers' interests are satisfactorily defended and represented.

Human resources are being run down. In real terms, education has been cut back at every level these past few years. The province acts as though the skills the worker has when he starts his career are all he will need for a lifetime. Now continuing education is being cut back, first in the community colleges and now through the school system. The Ontario Association for Continuing Education is being forced to send begging letters so it can keep up its standards rather than being able to provide an educational network and climate which people can plug into across the province.

Engineering faculties are threatened with losing their accreditation and the Ministry of Education just washes its hands of it, as the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) did today. Government spending may possibly benefit from some of those cuts but it is a short-term benefit because what we are really spending when we save those government dollars are our human resources in Ontario and those, in the end, are the most important resources we have.

Where should we be going? As a Socialist, I have some firm ideas, but I recognize those ideas and others are to be tested and debated and that we should try with that debate to find a consensus and to involve as many elements in our province as possible. In the situation we are facing at present there is a fundamental issue. It is the issue of power, of who will control the new technology and who will get the benefits.

One of the reasons I believe the Legislature should be involved through a select committee is because we are politicians and one of our jobs as politicians is to decide how power and collective resources will be shared or, if we have not quite made it to government and are sitting in opposition, to seek to contribute to the discussion of those issues and seek to influence those decisions.

The situation we now face is that business stands to benefit from the introduction of the new technology but the workers stand to lose. One cannot build a consensus on what is to be done as long as that fundamental inequity continues to exist. I want to repeat that. One cannot build a consensus on what is to be done

to respond to the new technology in Ontario as long as that fundamental inequity between business and labour, between management and workers, continues to exist.

One cannot have co-operation as long as there is a confrontation in which one side is content to be superior and insists on maintaining a superiority indefinitely into the future. The balance has to be evened up. A climate of co-operation and trust has to be created. That is going to take some time but it has to be done if we are to respond effectively to the technological challenge. That is one of the choices we face.

To bring an end to confrontation and to create a positive climate can be done only by government. That means that over the next two or three years it can be done only if there is a will to lead from the present Conservative government.

I suspect that will not be easy for the Conservatives. Anti-labour and anti-worker sentiment has been on the increase as part of the political swing to the right in North America, more pronounced in the United States than here but none the less prevalent here too. When productivity falters, it has been a lot easier for management and for management's friends in government to blame the workers than it has been to look in the mirror and see whether they themselves are to blame.

9:30 p.m.

Every now and then we have a Conservative back-bencher who blurts out what his colleagues secretly feel about workers and unions. That attitude simply has to change. The same thing goes for management. Surely there is enough experience by now to demonstrate that we cannot build productivity and adapt to change if management acts unilaterally, particularly with today's breed of worker, today's climate and the kind of education people had in the 1960s under the Premier's Department of Education, the kind of education people have had for the last 20 or 30 years.

We cannot simply tell a worker unilaterally, "Here is what you have to do," and expect him or her to say, "Aye, aye, sir," and jump to attention. That kind of unilateral decision-making and autocratic style breeds resentment, fosters nonco-operation and hurts productivity, and we cannot afford it in this province any more.

There has to be co-operation with labour, and that has to start with an acceptance of the legitimacy of labour and the right of workers to

have unions, which is commonplace in Europe but has yet to occur in this province.

Why do we have a strike record that is not particularly good in Ontario? A lot of it is because managements are constantly out to try to beat down and destroy the labour unions if they get a chance. We saw it at Fleck and at Radio Shack. I do not need to go on; that is always there.

Mr. Di Santo: And Irwin Toy.

Mr. Cassidy: My friend the member for Downsview reminds me of Irwin Toy.

As long as the unions have evidence, and there certainly is evidence, that management is out to destroy them, as long as they have evidence of the nonco-operation on the implementation of the health and safety bill, Bill 80, and the reluctance of management to set up health and safety committees, the unions simply cannot afford to let their guard down to the point where they can come together with government or management in joint programs to manage technological change.

If the unions are threatened, they will be in their shell; they will defend what they have. They cannot move forward in co-operation if they are convinced they may be knifed in the back the first time management gets a chance.

On a broader level, an act of acceptance of unions means eliminating the legislative barriers to the unionization of office workers and other unorganized sectors of the economy, particularly those workers who are strongly threatened. Once again, to do otherwise is to invite continued confrontation with organized workers.

The Speaker comes from a riding with a lot of organized workers. How would the workers in his riding feel if the government told them that their union was welcome to continue to exist but down the line the jobs they have may well go to a bunch of workers who do not have a union and against whom every obstacle is going to be placed in order that they not have a union?

Must unions and workers change as well? The answer is probably yes. That is a bit difficult for me to say, but I think there is probably room for change on all sides of the business-government-labour triangle. The fact is that the work place is already changing, and the unions are changing as well.

The average education of workers in the United States is now grade 12, and we are probably not far behind in Ontario. As new technology creates jobs that provide for more responsibility and autonomy, at least for some,

the workers will be looking for more say in their unions as well as in their work place. Those few unions that still take orders from the big cheese in Washington and are not prepared to give autonomy to the Canadian section had better watch out, because that situation will explode sooner or later.

Dare I say that when the select committee on technological change I proposed gets under way, it should look into the concept of industrial democracy and how that should apply in Ontario? Industrial democracy is an idea that has worried unions almost as much as management. There is a feeling that workers are always called upon to share responsibility when times are bad but they are shown the door once profits start to roll in again.

Once again, if trust is to exist, then a change that allows workers to participate in decisions about the work place has to be permanent and must not be revoked on a whim or because the bottom line begins to look a bit rosier.

In the past month, I have had a chance to talk with a large number of people in Ontario who are involved with the quality of working life programs. I would like to say, since the minister is here, that some of the experiments in which the Ontario Quality of Working Life Centre is involved are very exciting.

I think of the units at Ford in Oakville where production-line workers take time off to troubleshoot dealer complaints as far afield as Florida or California. That is one heck of a way of finding out what went wrong on the line. If the worker knows it himself, he will fix it a lot better than if some big cheese from management comes down once a week and tells you what you have to do.

There is another project which the Quality of Working Life Centre does not happen to be involved with but which is also exciting. There is a meat-packing plant, Miracle Food Mart up in Rexdale, where there are no foremen and where the proportion of supervisors, assistants and management of any kind to workers is cut to about one quarter of the usual level in a comparable plant. There are other places like that too.

I say to the minister I think the Quality of Working Life Centre is like a candle under a bushel, because people are not much aware of what it is doing but some of the implications of its work may be revolutionary.

The idea that workers in our democratic society who can speak up—unless they are civil servants—who can vote, can own property, can

run a Legion hall, can run a small business or can run for Parliament, should be treated as children and told what to do once they clock into work just does not make good sense any more, if it ever did. When workers can do all those things outside their job, surely it makes compelling sense to draw on those same talents during the 40 hours a week they spend working for pay.

If the minister wants some proof of that, I suggest that he look at how Japan handles its human resources compared to how we do it here in Ontario. The kind of work place we still have in Ontario breeds alienation.

If we want commitment—and, by God, I think we probably need it if we are going to survive as an industrial economy—and if we want involvement on the part of workers, then workers have to get something pretty substantial in return. What that means is that management has to be prepared to share its power to make decisions. That means a fundamental change in traditional doctrines of management rights. It is such a fundamental change that it will only be achieved if government helps to show why it is time to bring democracy to the work place.

This February, the Ontario New Democratic Party adopted a policy that favours industrial democracy and worker involvement in decisions that affect the work place. It was not without difficulty that we came to that position. But nowadays major Ontario unions like the United Steelworkers, the United Auto Workers, the United Food and Commercial Workers and the Ontario Public Service Employees Union have shown leadership in supporting the government's creation of a Quality of Working Life Centre. So the attitudes are changing even though the unions know the risks and the dangers.

What concerns me, though, is that technology seems to be changing 10 times as fast as the attitudes of management, labour and government. I do not know whether the change in attitudes can be speeded up. People are human after all. But I cannot help feeling that leadership in creating a legislative framework for technological change would help.

I might add that if this government wants business and labour to co-operate more effectively, it has to encourage them to share information more freely. That is essential if workers are to participate in decisions. Ontario would have a lot more credibility in this regard if it stopped trying to sabotage freedom of informa-

tion legislation in Parliament and stopped trying to pigeon-hole freedom of legislation information here in the Ontario Legislature seven years after the promise that it would bring it in.

If I can talk specifically about the legislative change that we need, we are living in turbulent times; the sudden emergence of microelectronics processing will make things even more confusing. I have argued so far that if Ontario is to withstand the challenge of changing technology, we have to have a new kind of worker, a new kind of work place and a new kind of management that no longer holds that management rights are sacred.

I have argued that change had better begin pretty fast, because the pace of technological change is just beginning to take off. But just what do we know about the impact on workers? The answer is, "Not a lot." Industry is not required to keep records on workers who are displaced by technological change and seldom does. Jobs disappear by attrition. One cannot see them going away until one starts to count.

Right now, Ontario has 398,000 workers who are officially unemployed and a further 150,000 who are hidden unemployed. We do not know how many of those workers will get back on the job if the economy turns around and how many are victims of technological change. We do not know whether women and youth are as threatened as they seem. Will we need to create new jobs, and how many? Will our industry be so productive or so noncompetitive that there is no way it will create the jobs it will need? In that case, what are the alternatives to work and unemployment, and how can we ensure that every Ontarian gets a fair share of the benefits from industries that have become superproductive because of new technology?

9:40 p.m.

I repeat, as a Socialist, that if 10 per cent of the industry can produce all the products we need in this province, then Socialists are needed. People need to know a way of fairly distributing that enormous potential rather than leaving it in the hands of a few entrepreneurs and maybe of a few workers.

I do not pretend to have the answers to all these questions. I know we should be asking them, though, and at least we should be starting to get the facts. Unless we assume there is no problem—and I cannot believe that is the case—it is urgent to get started on legislative measures that will protect and reassure workers and give workers the means and the right to

participate in decisions that relate to technological change.

I want to give an agenda which I would suggest should be not the concluding point but the point from which we should begin.

First, there must be a commitment by Ontario to use every means within its power to ensure full employment in the province. That is one of the reasons labour is sceptical about the good faith of this government. Even if the economic situation in Britain, the European Economic Community or the United States is such that we could not have every worker in the province employed today, a full employment policy would try to get jobs for as many people as possible and that would mean the government is seen to have that as a number one priority.

Our party has talked about that on a number of occasions over the course of the past few years. That has to be a priority so workers know they are not being left on the scrap heap because governments have gotten together with business and decided their needs will come at the rear end.

Notice: The notice of a planned technological change should be given at the earliest possible date—at a minimum, six months in the case of major changes. Technological change should be designed to include not only new machinery but also the introduction of new processes and work methods. People who have looked at this say, “We have to have a better definition for what technological change actually means; otherwise, management will always say we did not know that was technological change.”

OC Transpo in Ottawa right now has just gone through a very dispiriting situation under the Canada Labour Code. Under the code, their workers were allowed to negotiate technological change. They signed a contract a year ago and a week later learned that management intended a major change in terms of the way they worked and in terms of computerized monitoring of the buses to find out where they were every minute or every minute and a half.

The workers wanted to be consulted. They wound up before the Canada Labour Relations Board and said: “We have the right to bargain this. Would you please give us the right, because that should be our right according to the code?” Now they have been refused by the Canada Labour Relations Board, which is not prepared to give it to them.

The notice has to be adequate. We have to have an adequate definition of technological

change, and there has to be a commitment to err on the side of the workers in that definition, if anything, and not on the side of management.

Consultation: Workers should have the right to be fully informed about technological change and to be consulted about its application in the work place.

Bargaining: Unions should have the right to bargain all planned technological changes, with matters that cannot be settled going to arbitration.

Perhaps I could explain what that means. Arbitration takes time; it is a bit quixotic at times. One does not know what is going to come out of it, so it is dangerous for both sides. I think that is the only way that can be done if the union is going to bargain for technological change.

There should be the right to bargain, and management should know that if it cannot reach an agreement it is going to be held up on a technological change it presumably wants to bring in because it will save money or increase productivity.

That is a way of ensuring the workers are protected. It is a way of ensuring the benefits from that technological change will be shared with the workers rather than simply being kept entirely in the hands of management.

Workers should have the right to reopen their contract in the case of major change.

Job protection: Workers affected by technological change should have the right to severance pay. It does not exist in this province right now except in rare cases. They should have the right to preferred hiring elsewhere in the company. It does not exist now, as the Inco workers found when they tried to get jobs in Thompson, Manitoba. They learned they had no rights once they were 25 miles outside Sudbury.

Workers should have access to retraining either for new work within the company or for new work outside. That is not a right now; it is a grace and favour kind of thing. What the government promised in the throne speech was that they would provide more counselling services so that workers would have a better idea of just how unlucky they were to be in a plant that was shutting down or in a job affected by technological change.

As we have said before, companies that seek to shut down all or a major part of a plant should be required to justify publicly their decision both to the union and to the community. Time and financing should be available to any group that is prepared to take over the operation and to maintain the jobs.

Once again, we have to err on the side of keeping jobs, because we know jobs are being destroyed by new technology. It is a lot harder to know where the new jobs are going to come from, and the new jobs may not even be created in Ontario, in Canada or on this continent.

Pensions: The pension rights of all workers must be protected and must be portable without the present restrictions of 10 years' service and age 45. I would go beyond that and suggest that a select committee should look at the Canada pension plan and at who suffers from technological change.

If a worker over 55 is affected by technological change, does it make sense to leave that worker for 10 years on a combination of a low-wage or a no-wage job or unemployment insurance and all kinds of indignities while he fights with younger workers to have a job?

Perhaps we could extend CPP benefits at the age of 55 to a worker in that situation, recognizing the difficulty of retraining, which is evident in the failure to retrain over the last 30 or 40 years, and saying we will do it better for younger workers. At any rate, workers' pension rights must be protected and must be portable.

Participation: I am now moving into the area that management may not like, but I believe they have to accept it, and the government has to help them accept it.

Workers affected by technological change should have the right to participate in evaluating technological change, such as the new word processors in offices of the future for the government, in selecting technological change, in adapting their work place to technological change and in implementing technological change. Otherwise, the change will be seen by most workers as being done to them rather than being done with them. An atmosphere of confrontation will take place. The workers will not work well with the new equipment. The gains or productivity that management hopes for will not be achieved. We will be uncompetitive, and the benefits that could accrue to society will be not achieved.

Not only that, but on a broader basis I suggest the government should enunciate as a matter of policy that workers in general should have the general right to participate in decisions that affect their work place and its day-to-day operation.

Once again, I think a select committee should look at that, because even in an industry where the technological change is several years down

the line, we have to start adapting now if we are going to work smarter later.

Perhaps in nonunionized firms there should be an obligatory worker-management consultation committee with the right to meet and to consult on a regular basis. Even though not organized, the workers should have the right to elect by secret ballot their own representatives. If that happened to lead to an encouragement of unionization, then so be it. I do not think it is a bad thing so far as workers and the kind of partnership that we should have in Ontario industry are concerned.

The general rights should be put down in legislation. In Norway in 1976 they put into legislation the desirable characteristics of a job to encourage autonomy and the right for workers to make their own decisions, to enable them to see as a whole what a job is all about rather than just seeing one little fraction of what a job is, to be able to participate and to be able to be seen as a person rather than as a cog in a machine.

There are a number of other things; I do not have them in front of me. Perhaps we should put that into legislation in Ontario. Perhaps the select committee should look at that as something that would be desirable. If that meant we in this province became leaders in applying new principles to the work place, that would be a damned good thing, because we have a lot to learn in North America about how co-operation should work in the work place. If Ontario could be a leader in that regard, I think everybody in this province would benefit.

9:50 p.m.

Union recognition: Because it is vital to have worker participation in meeting the challenge of technological change, workers should be encouraged to form their own unions and legislative obstacles should be removed.

Management rights: As I have said before, it should be recognized by legislation that management must share its control over the enterprise if workers are to co-operate in adapting to technological change. We have a preamble to the Labour Relations Act which gives the reasons this province endorses the right of workers to have their own unions. Perhaps some other preamble or some other statement of policy is required.

We take rights away from management by making them pay taxes, by making them pay unemployment insurance benefits, by making them conform to the Workmen's Compensation Board, to hours of work, overtime provisions,

holiday pay provisions, safe working provisions, health and safety and so on. It is no big deal to take it further and say the idea that everything else that is not specified in legislation or in the contract is a right of a worker; that is 19th century. We are moving into the 21st century. We have to change that idea and say that those determinations about where a firm goes and what is done have to be shared.

Continuous learning: On-the-job learning should be recognized as an integral part of every job in order that Ontario can meet the demands of technological change without making workers redundant.

Heather Menzies, a friend of mine in Ottawa, has written a book, *Women and the Chip*. The minister may be familiar with it. She writes about one place where 130 clerical jobs were eliminated because of technological change; 110 technical jobs were created. The net loss was 20, which did not seem quite so bad at first, until you realized that of the 130 workers displaced only two were able to retrain and take the new jobs that were being created.

What kind of work place are we going to have in the future? Will workers be cogs in a machine and if they do not happen to fit they are thrown on the scrap heap? It is like saying if you have a transmission gear for a Ford you cannot put it into a Chevrolet. If workers are treated in that way we will have a situation where we will be scouring the world for skilled workers while our own workers draw the dole or line up in soup kitchen lines in downtown Toronto and in downtown Ottawa.

We have to have continuous learning in the work place and outside the work place, a levy grant system, paid educational leave for workers so they can learn what workers need to know among other things, and so they can protect workers' interests in finding out and participating in decisions about the work place.

It is no surprise that some of this program is familiar; New Democrats have been arguing for it for years. Trade unions have been trying to bargain it for years too, but have usually met entrenched resistance from management. As far as the government is concerned, the record is not much better. There are only four jurisdictions in Canada that give workers the right to bargain over technological change during the life of a contract. They are the federal government, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and British Columbia.

Even though we are probably affected by technological change more than any other prov-

ince, Ontario does not allow workers to bargain for technological change unless their contract is up for renewal. Do we just sit back and wait for three years until something happens or do we begin to look for action now? I cannot accept that we have to wait until 1985, because micro-electronic technology is posing such a critical problem to our economy. No one knows how great a problem it is. It is also creating opportunities which are very exciting, but which may well be more limited.

Let me return to my original argument. Is the problem as I have stated it? Do we run devastating risks in terms of future employment in Ontario? There is very strong evidence that we do. Has any party or any body developed a policy which will resolve the problem? Judging by the unemployment figures and by what seems to lie ahead, certainly not in Ontario, and once again I am prepared to say *mea culpa* as far as the NDP is concerned. I happen to think our industrial policy is headed in the right direction, but we need to come to grips with just what is happening in the work place and the kinds of policies that should be directed to resolving the problems. I have suggested some answers, but I do not pretend that those are the only answers or all the answers we need to find out.

I would add for the benefit of the minister—I might say this is a means of getting compliance; and, let us face it, there may have to be compliance in the beginning—that every year Ontario gives out billions of dollars in tax handouts and tax expenditures to business, as does the federal government, through accelerated depreciation, exemption from sales tax on production machinery, grants, funds from the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development and those kinds of things. We do that in every way we can, and more and more ways seem to have been created in the last few years to put government money in the hands of private business—some of them justified, some not.

I want to suggest that the select committee should look very seriously at whether the way the work place works is not so important and the need for change so urgent that we should make all those government handouts and tax expenditures conditional on management and labour making progress towards a form of industrial democracy where the decisions are shared rather than being imposed by management. If those people in management are not prepared to change, then let them have it their way if they want to, but do not let them expect to get the

kinds of benefits, tax expenditures and tax concessions they have had in the past.

We should look seriously at that. I do not know whether it would be effective, but it is one measure and we have to find things that work because the pace of change is just coming so fast.

I think the proposals I have made are good ones. They have a lot of support from the labour movement and from my party. But there is not enough time to wait for a New Democratic Party government in 1985 to start implementing these proposals.

The task force on microelectronics, which was set up in 1980, was intended to study the actual and potential social impact of the microelectronics technology. It had a sense of the crisis we are facing. I want to come to that, because I want to conclude now by talking about why we should set up a select committee and get it working by this summer.

Although the task force was more optimistic about job creation than I am, it said very bluntly, and I quote:

"There is no doubt that technological change leads to job displacement and the obsolescence of hard-won skills. The challenge is to ensure that the technology does not simply eliminate jobs in Canada and create new jobs elsewhere. Without awareness, followed by planning and co-operation, the results could be disastrous."

The situation right now is that we do not have awareness, we do not have planning, we do not have co-operation and we run a risk that the results will be disastrous.

The task force argued for the co-operative management of change, and because it had focused on the needs of the Ontario microelectronics industry, particularly the creation of the technology centre in Ottawa, it called for a second task force that would look at the social impact of microtechnology at work, on education and in the home.

It also called for co-operative programs between government, labour and industry to plan for the introduction of technological change, to monitor the impact of the new technology on health and safety and to help cushion workers displaced by the introduction of new technologies.

They were headed in the right direction. It was a very slim report they came in with, but they said: "Do not stop now. You have to do more." It is sad to say the government sat on the report for seven months before it even released it. Since that time there has been no evidence that the government has really absorbed those

parts of the task force report that I have quoted. A second task force has not been announced. Measures to involve labour have not been taken. Meanwhile, the new technology is spreading at an incredible rate.

It is time to get the process of planning and joint action under way. I do not think another task force is the appropriate vehicle, perhaps because the last one was so low profile. We need an arena where ideas can be exchanged and debated. We need a body that will help to educate the public to the impact of new technology on Ontario. We need a means to generate some of the questions in the area of social impact, for example, which I have barely touched on in this speech because, as I said, as politicians we do not have the answers and may not yet even have the questions.

We need a body that is capable of making the political judgement about how measures in use in other countries, such as the job protection programs in western Europe, could be adapted to Ontario. That is why I think the select committee is the appropriate vehicle to assess the impact of technological change in Ontario. The committee can serve as a forum to generate attention, ideas and policy for dealing with the technological revolution Ontario is facing. It can help the three major parties develop an awareness of the most central economic and social issue of the 1980s. It can help build a consensus for new policies to respond to technological change within the Legislature, within the government and within the province as a whole.

10 p.m.

I see this select committee being given the same kind of prestige and resources that were provided to the select committee on economic and cultural nationalism 10 years ago. The present Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. Walker) was a member of that committee, as was the House leader of the New Democratic Party.

The committee should travel the province, receive briefs, commission research and co-ordinate its work with government departments which are starting to look at technological change, like that office of the future group in the Management Board of Cabinet. It should try to serve as a catalyst and stimulate the changes in attitudes that will be needed in Ontario.

In stimulating the changes in attitudes that will be needed in Ontario, since the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) is still here, I say that his government as a whole, and perhaps all of us

opposition politicians too, have to try to serve in that role. That is one of the reasons I intend to devote some more time to what is happening in terms of technological policy and what is changing in the province because I think it is urgent and important, not just for the people getting jobs in my riding of Ottawa Centre, but for the people across the province who may be getting or may be losing jobs because of new technology.

The microprocessor that allows my kid to work like a professional secretary can just as well destroy skills and jobs that took decades to acquire. The only way to imagine what its impact may be is to look at how the steam engine changed industry or to look at how the automobile has changed our cities in the last 60 or 70 years.

When one is faced with change on that scale, one either plans for it or chaos results. That is a process in which I believe this Legislature must be involved. That is why I am proposing we establish a select committee. It is a process which, if we get involved in it, might even make this Legislature relevant to Ontario's future.

Believe me, from the perspective of a few months on the back benches, there are serious dangers this Legislature will become totally irrelevant to what is happening in the province. The select committee of this Legislature is an idea all of us in Ontario need. I hope it will be accepted by the government and implemented at the earliest possible date.

Mr. Runciman: Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in the throne speech debate today and to outline to the House some of the issues I believe are of great importance to those I represent in the riding of Leeds. We are into the fourth week of debate and several respected members have described their considerable concerns about Canada's economic drift—

Mr. Conway: George Fulford had pink pills for pale people. What is your prescription?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Wrye): Carry on.

Mr. Piché: Don't listen to him; go ahead

Mr. Conway: At least the member for Lanark knows who Fulford is.

Hon. Mr. Wiseman: I know that fellow well.

Mr. Runciman: In any event, as I said, several members have described their considerable concerns about Canada's economic drift, aggravated as it is by policies that are driving investment dollars south of the border in the billions, policies that make Canadian business hesitate

to invest, policies that make developers delay badly needed housing projects, and policies that encourage our young people to seek the greener pastures of the western provinces and the United States. Young Canadians are leaving—

Mr. Boudria: It sounds like the policies of your government.

Mr. Runciman: Just listen, fellows. Young Canadians are leaving Ontario in increasing numbers and they represent a resource we can ill afford to lose, a resource I have oft-times heard referred to as our greatest resource. That is a sentiment I share.

Accordingly, as a representative of a constituency in eastern Ontario particularly hard hit and increasingly threatened by this adverse climate created by the Liberal government in Ottawa, I would like to suggest the Ontario government must play, and is expected to play, an increasing role in ameliorating the extraordinary problems which plague my region's economy, as a typical case.

Mr. Samis: It sounds like government intervention.

Mr. Runciman: That's where you are from. Listen to this.

To the province's credit, many Ontario regions have shown considerable resistance to the current economic downturn. I wish I could say that eastern Ontario was one of them. It is not. Indeed, most members will agree that constituencies which lie along the St. Lawrence River experience severe and unique economic pressures.

Employment statistics show a disturbing trend in our area of the province. Latest figures indicate a decline of almost 20,000 jobs between last summer and this spring—

Mr. Mancini: What's your government doing about that?

Mr. Runciman: I will get to that.

This is a particularly depressing situation in an area not noted for its great abundance of job opportunities at the best of times.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: And consistent Tory representation.

Mr. Runciman: My riding of Leeds is but one small segment of eastern Ontario but it is typical of the region outside the bigger centres. While it is primarily rural in character and structure the impact of the statistics is no less severe. It is causing an increasing exodus of young people from the farms and villages of the region, for

there are fewer and fewer job opportunities or other incentives to keep them there.

Farming, into which many of our young people would have entered automatically years ago, no longer is open to them. This is because of the huge costs involved, not only in land but in the cost and scarcity of milk quotas, egg quotas, poultry quotas and other controls. A young fellow cannot begin to think of setting up a small cheese plant, neither could a group of young farmers; control of milk supplies would prevent it. The controlled marketing system may be good for those who are in it but it has also taken away a great deal of incentive for those on the outside wanting to get in.

Mr. Mancini: That's it, you're all finished in the farm community.

Mr. Runciman: That member had better go and speak to Mr. Whelan, his buddy out in Ottawa.

Mr. Mancini: He supports marketing boards; he's for the people.

Mr. Runciman: Yes, that is for sure.

Mr. Conway: Is there any truth to the rumour you are going to try for a federal candidacy? Yes or no?

Mr. Runciman: A dairy farm with a quota today represents a whopping investment. One cannot start with a few cows and work up any more. The young farmer is expected to start at the top. Since this is a fact of life in rural areas now, should we not be looking for alternatives in regions such as Leeds?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Hear, hear. Especially in representation.

Mr. Runciman: Mr. Speaker, can you do anything to control those characters?

The Acting Speaker: Order. The member for Leeds has the floor. The member for Renfrew North will restrain himself.

Mr. Runciman: I appreciate that.

Mr. Conway: I just wanted the member for Leeds to pronounce himself on the federal candidacy.

Mr. Runciman: What I have to suggest may not be news but it is reality. Special assistance is needed, especially in the rural areas. In fact, it is my belief that limited government funding, having restraints in mind, could produce rich dividends. It would help create an industrial and business development commission for the rural municipalities in Leeds. I feel sure this would be of immeasurable benefit to this hard-pressed section of eastern Ontario. While we

have self-help in mind it will need financial encouragement to get off the ground.

I will shortly be presenting to the government a proposal to provide short-term funding assistance for a Leeds economic development commission and I strongly urge that it receive favourable consideration. We in Leeds have long taken a back seat as we witnessed millions of government dollars pouring into large urban centres in eastern Ontario—and I did not mention Cornwall. Millions of government dollars pour into large urban centres in eastern Ontario while the smaller rural municipalities receive what to them is perceived as token attention.

A lot of small villages in my riding—and this applies to most of rural eastern Ontario—are experiencing a slow death. Their populations are shrinking as young people leave to find work; their schools and many small businesses are closing or facing closure due to this decrease in population. In my opinion, it is fast approaching a crisis situation and for a minimal cash outlay the province can start a rescue mission, one that will help people to help themselves. To do otherwise is to turn our backs on an opportunity to halt a dry rot that is besetting our rural villages, an opportunity and a need that begs for recognition.

Still concerned about my own area, but concerned also—

Mr. Mancini: Fermé la bouche.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Remo, those lessons are paying off.

Mr. Piché: Remo, translate that into Italian.
10:10 p.m.

Mr. Runciman: Still concerned about my own area, but concerned also in the broader sense with the entire province, I would consider the industrial health of this province a priority at this time too. I would like to touch on the loss of competitive edge within our own country and in international trade; international, of course, translating into trade with the United States.

My concern has to do with the cost of energy as related to two or three points. First, there is the oil pricing agreement between the federal and Alberta governments and the problems it has caused many of us, from consumers paying constantly increasing costs to heat homes and to run cars, to the petrochemical industries.

Chemical exporters, some in my own area, have been asking our government to help them deal with some of the problems the agreement has created. In my view, the province, in order to protect the interests of these companies,

should look at the possibility of interceding with the federal government to have the agreement modified in order to link the price of oil in Canada to the US price.

Indexation should not be limited to international pricing alone. This type of linkage to US pricing is critical for Ontario industry in order to balance off some of its inherent disadvantages compared to its US competitors.

I submit that Ontario's business and industry no longer enjoys the edge it once did due to a combination of factors, not the least of which was the cost of all forms of energy. Remember when Ontario boasted the lowest cost electrical energy in North America? In more recent years, remember when Canada's huge reserves of natural gas were going to give us a competitive edge? We were going to heat our homes and run our factories on natural gas more economically than any other country. I would like to think that we can once again give our industry that competitive edge. We still have the quality of workmanship to compare with any of our competitors but we need that something extra that other governments attempt to give to their industry.

This may be of interest to my friends over on the left. Another issue of concern to me and to my constituents is that of arbitration practices. It is important that we move towards the provision of fairer arbitration settlements for employees in the municipal sector, particularly those who come under the Police Act, the Fire Departments Act and the Hospital Labour Disputes Arbitration Act. Because of the services provided by employees in this area, strikes and lockouts are prohibited as tactics to be used in solving labour disputes.

The items of legislation I have mentioned require binding arbitration once it becomes apparent that conventional bargaining is going nowhere. However, the ways in which arbitration is approached in existing legislation varies quite substantially. Each act has its own strengths and weaknesses and I believe it is now time for this government to act in order to eliminate these weaknesses and to provide for greater consistency in the area of arbitration.

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario has an obvious interest in this matter and I believe that a proposal prepared for AMO and the municipal police authorities has some merit and should be given consideration when changes to our existing legislation are contemplated. Anyone who has been involved in the process will know that at best, arbitration is a poor

substitute for good collective bargaining. However, negotiators on both sides often find it easier to force arbitration in order to avoid taking the responsibility for any aspect of the agreement.

I would, therefore, support the proposal in the AMO report that before binding arbitration is imposed, an intermediate stage of compulsory mediation should be inserted in order to provide an incentive for more serious bargaining.

Mr. Mancini: You want the police to strike. That's it.

Mr. Runciman: No, no. Then, if a dispute does go to arbitration, the AMO report proposes that criteria for arbitrators be established by statute.

Mr. Laughren: Have you talked to the Minister of Labour about this?

Mr. Mancini: One more level of bureaucracy.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Leeds has the floor.

Mr. Runciman: This would result in more serious bargaining which would, in the long run, benefit the municipality concerned, its residents and the people of Ontario.

I have one point coming up that is very near and dear to the heart of the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini), so I am sure he is going to pay rapt attention to what I have to say.

I would like to spend a moment or two on an issue I feel is very close to the hearts of the average citizens in this province. It has to do with the forced use of metric.

Last week, I noted with no small measure of satisfaction that my views on the subject are shared with the same fervour by thousands of Canadians.

Mr. Haggerty: You should talk to your boss over there, the Premier (Mr. Davis).

The Deputy Speaker: Carry on.

Mr. Runciman: I intend to. I was gratified and encouraged to see that this federal madness, this mandatory madness, this irresponsible and blatant disregard for small business and ordinary people, this imposition by threat of fines and jail, this forced use of the metric system has been challenged by those of us who cherish our freedom and our basic right to choose. We do not appreciate having no voice in such arbitrary government action, especially when that action represents broken promises and no one seems ready to do anything about it.

In my view—

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. A point of privilege from the member for Essex South.

Mr. Mancini: I feel it is very important at this time to inform the House that the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Elgie) for the province was on the radio in the Windsor area and stated emphatically that Ontario had no intention whatsoever of slowing up the metric process and that the government was going to let things proceed as they were. I think the—

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. That was not a point of privilege. The member for Leeds.

Mr. Runciman: The minister is welcome to his point of view.

In my view, metric measurement, enforced under penalty of law, aided by countless enforcers—the metric Gestapo is the way I like to refer to them—is a horrifying shock to a great many Canadians. I do not want any government telling the people who built this country that they must use metric or go to jail. I do not want the government telling me to think, shop and talk in metric unless that is my free wish and it is not.

Mr. Cassidy: If you were an Ontario civil servant you would get fired for saying that.

Mr. Laughren: Are you ever lucky you're not a civil servant. If the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope) gets word of this you'll be fired. You'll lose your seat if he gets word of this.

Mr. Runciman: Mr. Speaker, I just have to wonder if the constituents of these gentlemen opposite could be made aware of their position when we are dealing with the forced use of metric. If they knew the way these so-called gentlemen are acting here this evening, I think the members would be facing a lot of heat.

It frightens me to think that so many of us can sit quietly, unanimous in our silent disregard for our older citizens, the people who built this country we enjoy, the Earl McEwans. These older people have come to me in their sadness wondering what is happening to their beloved country. One elderly woman said this to me about metric, "I wish they had waited until I was dead." What an awful commentary.

Members have heard of future shock. Well, these older people, and some not so old, are suffering from metric shock. They are frustrated by the metric system and they do not know where to turn for help. I think the Ontario government has a role to play in helping them and in helping people in small businesses. Let us listen to the majority of our people, those who

do not want to be forced to use metric, and let us urge the federal government to call a halt to further metrication.

Mr. Laughren: What a hypocrite you are. Your whole government supports it and you stand up—

Mr. Runciman: No, our government does not support the forced use of metric measurement.

A few weeks ago the member for Essex South took me to task for getting involved in the forced use of metric. He said it was a federal matter and I should not be poking my nose into it. Well, saying it is a federal problem has been a very convenient out for a great many provincial politicians across this country. But the truth is something else again.

We would not be in this metric mess if provincial governments had not gone along for the ride—if provincial governments had expended the time and energy to examine critically the veracity of the federal government's claims of trade advantage.

10:20 p.m.

Mr. Laughren: Where is the Premier? The Premier supports the metric system. What are you talking about?

Mr. McClellan: He invented the metric system.

Mr. Runciman: I would like to know where the New Democratic Party stands on the issue of forced use of metric. Where does the NDP stand on freedom of choice in this country? They do not know their position.

We would not be in this metric mess if provincial governments had not gone along for the ride, if they had expended the time and energy to examine critically the veracity of the federal government's claims of trade advantage, inevitability, a US-Britain switchover and, most important, their false commitment to a voluntary program.

Mr. Laughren: Don't be such a hypocrite.

Mr. Runciman: I am not a hypocrite. The member may be, but I am not. I was saying this four years ago. Regrettably, provincial governments chose not to take that course and instead jumped right into the spider's web of federal government policy.

Mr. Martel: That's because of that dumb Joe Clark.

Mr. Runciman: There was a remark thrown across the floor about Joe Clark. When the federal Progressive Conservatives took power, they rescinded the order in council that made

the metric system mandatory. When the Liberals assumed power again, they came right back in with that order in council making metric mandatory. Do not say that Joe Clark did not do the proper thing, because he did.

Political parties of every stripe failed even to adequately approach representing the interests of their constituents. Some of the fellows across the floor were around here; I think most of them were. In 1978, there was a debate in this House—

Mr. Ruston: Larry Grossman brought in the law about metric in Ontario.

Mr. Runciman: We want to see how much those chaps care about this.

With few exceptions, the debate consisted mainly of jocular and sometimes inane comments. The biggest point of concern seemed to be whether the Argos would perform better on a metric field. When we consider the impact of forced metric on all our lives, on our culture and heritage, on our economy and on our freedoms as Canadians, this House and all parties in it have little to be proud of when the record is reviewed.

But it is not too late to change that. Too often governments commit themselves to policies and programs that quickly prove to be in error but, for reasons known best to them and their bureaucrats, they continue to forge ahead unwilling to admit a mistake has been made. There is no doubt in my mind that a dreadful, costly mistake has been made with the forced use of metric, and I implore the government and this House to take action to neutralize this federal government assault on our freedoms.

At the provincial level, I believe we should initially indicate quite clearly to the federal government that Ontario does not support the forced use of metric measurement and urge a return to the voluntary program as originally promised. If that fails to have an impact on our friends in Ottawa, the province can move on its own to pressure the federal government into action.

One of the options available is legislation requiring advertising and signs to have both measurements, perhaps with imperial being dominant. We could also convert selected provincial statutes back to imperial. The Highway Traffic Act would have the most immediate impact. We could put the province back on to standard paper and on and on; there are all kinds of options.

Make no mistake about it, we at the provincial level have the jurisdictional powers to force

the federal government's hand on the enforced use of metric. The question is, do we have the desire? Listening to that group over there, it is quite obvious they do not. I am trying to do something about it. What are they doing besides sitting there and acting like a bunch of yahoos? Not a heck of a lot.

If the federal government is unwilling to withdraw the mandatory provisions of metric law, I urge this government and this House to take whatever actions are necessary to frustrate the federal effort.

Mr. Martel: Why don't you get serious and talk about something with substance?

Mr. Runciman: Let us muster the intestinal fortitude required and give the people of this province and this country a clear indication that this government and this Legislature are willing to listen to the people they represent.

Mr. Martel: Talk about jobs instead of nonsense. Why don't you talk about jobs?

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I know this is a very controversial matter, but the member for Leeds has the floor. Will you please give him the opportunity of continuing with his speech? And that includes the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel).

Mr. Martel: If he wants to talk about something, tell him to talk about jobs for people. This crap is not worth taking the time of the House for.

Mr. Runciman: Mr. Speaker, I only have a few minutes. I am going to change topics. We know where those guys stand.

As a voice crying in the wilderness, I would like to address again an issue which I feel is of urgent and humanitarian purpose. I think this is a very serious matter and, if the members opposite would have the decency to listen and hear a few words, they would realize how serious this is.

The Deputy Speaker: I agree. Let us restrain ourselves for four minutes.

Mr. Runciman: Mr. Speaker, terminally ill cancer patients in this country are forbidden the use of heroin as a painkiller during their last stages of life. I would like to see the law changed to permit its therapeutic use.

I first raised this issue in the House almost one year ago, and since that time I have been frustrated by the lack of interest of both the provincial and federal governments and the Canadian Cancer Society.

The same old worn-out excuses have been

trotted out time and time again, while people dying of cancer have been denied the opportunity to live their last days in a dignified and pain-free manner.

The medical establishment is divided on the relative merits of heroin versus morphine as effective painkillers.

Mr. Martel: Are you paid to say this?

Mr. Runciman: Yes, that is right. My friend and I should talk about that outside.

In tests conducted by the Vince Lombardi Cancer Research Institute of Georgetown University in the United States, the patients rated heroin as being two and a half times more effective than morphine in relieving their pain.

Frankly, I do not really care whether it is more convenient for the medical profession to use one or the other. The point is, if heroin relieves pain for some patients, then it should be made available to them. I fail to see any problems that may arise if this happens that are not surmountable.

In the United States, there is a proposed amendment to the Controlled Substances Act that would permit heroin to be used on cancer patients under very strict and exacting conditions. It is receiving widespread support that cuts across all political and ideological lines.

This is not a political issue, and it is not even a medical issue. It is a humanitarian concern for the quality of the life we live. How can we sit back and judge the merits of heroin when we have no concept of the pain and suffering that goes on without the kind of pain relief that is surely the right of every patient and every person in our society?

My inquiries last year into the matter resulted in lengthy written replies from the federal and provincial ministers of health, the federal Minister of Justice and the vice-president of the Canadian Cancer Society. All the letters were of a negative nature, but perhaps most distressing was the fact that several paragraphs in each letter were identical, word for word. That has to make me wonder just how closely they studied the issue.

I call upon our new Minister of Health (Mr. Grossman) and the Minister of National Health and Welfare to take a fresh look at this situation—and I emphasize “a fresh look”—and give doctors and patients the opportunity to explore all avenues to relieve pain. Heroin has proved its worth in this regard; 37 countries throughout the world already allow it to be used for this purpose. It is high time that Canada and Ontario joined the ranks of those willing to make the last days of life tolerable for cancer patients.

Mr. Speaker, I do not have much time. I commend the government's efforts to attract tourists in the face of some very stiff competition from New York state and Quebec. But more needs to be done to attract a greater share of these tourism dollars to eastern Ontario.

The natural beauty of Leeds and some first-rate resort facilities, once discovered, often bring vacationers back to eastern Ontario. But the major problem remains. Other than the beautiful Thousand Islands and the Rideau lakes, there is no major drawing card, no specific attractions.

I have made a proposal to the government that could eliminate that deficiency. Perhaps most members are aware that until the 1950s Brockville was a major Canadian rail centre. At one time it had more than 1,000 people working on three railways, the Canadian National Railway, the Canadian Pacific Railway and the old Brockville to Westport. The oldest railway tunnel in all of Canada runs right under the city from north to south, indeed, right under the city hall. It is an ideal location for developing a first-class railway museum.

Ever since Pierre Berton, who by the way has expressed an interest in this project, wrote *The Last Spike*, the public's interest in and attachment to the railway has been growing by leaps and bounds. This sentiment is not limited to Canadians. Europeans and Americans have also found a rekindled affection for railways and the romanticism and pioneering spirit they have come to represent.

I brought this proposal forward last summer. Several meetings have been held with the CPR and municipal and provincial officials. A few weeks ago, with the assistance of the province, economic assessment experts from California spent two days in Brockville reviewing the proposal. The CPR has been extremely co-operative, especially in terms of their offer to reinstall trackage and supply vintage railway equipment.

This development, taking place on a staged basis over a number of years, ultimately envisages a train run of approximately three miles starting at the riverfront, going through the tunnel, with station stops at the city's 55-acre recreation area and the provincial-municipal conservation area.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I wonder if at this time the honourable member would like to adjourn the debate.

On motion by Mr. Runciman, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 10:31 p.m.

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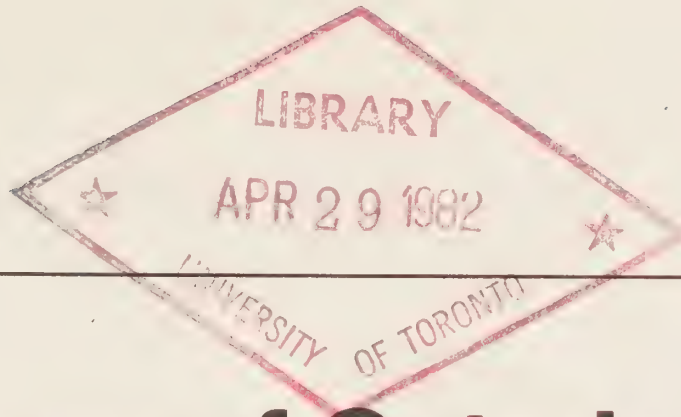
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No. 23

Legislature of Ontario Debates

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Official Report (Hansard)

Second Session, Thirty-Second Parliament

Thursday, April 15, 1982

Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Thursday, April 15, 1982

The House met at 2:03 p.m.

Prayers.

ALDERMAN CHARLES WARD

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: With the indulgence of the House, I would like to draw the honorable members' attention to the passing last night of the oldest elected official in Ontario, Alderman Charles Ward of Brantford.

Alderman Ward, at the time of his passing, had been a representative on Brantford city council for 29 years. He was certainly our most honoured and beloved Brantford citizen. He was the first president of United Auto Workers Local 458 in the city of Brantford.

He was, during the course of his long life, an employee of the Massey-Ferguson company and had been the recipient of many distinguished honours including that of appointment to the Duke of Edinburgh's committee for Canada and involvement in the arrangement of royal tours.

He was also the Junior Chamber of Commerce's man of the year in Brantford for a number of years and was honoured last year for what was, I think, generally assumed to be his last election to municipal office. He was named an honorary mayor for life of the city of Brantford.

Charlie Ward was a very dear friend of mine and of many thousands of citizens in our county who came to know and love him over the years.

PHYSICIANS' SERVICES

Mr. Foulds: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: Considering the importance of the situation, do you and the Minister of Health (Mr. Grossman) or some spokesman for the government not think it is a duty and an obligation under standing order 26(a) to make a statement about the current state of negotiations between the government and the Ontario Medical Association?

Surely we in this House are entitled to a statement that includes the exact state of OMA-government negotiations, the exact effect of the doctors' job actions on the effectiveness of the health care system in Ontario and the number of specific cases that have been referred to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario.

If the government is not ready to make a

ministerial statement during the normal time for those statements, this party at least would be glad to revert to statements at some time this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. I am sure the Minister of Health will take your request into consideration.

Mr. Peterson: On the same point, Mr. Speaker: I share the concerns of the acting leader of the New Democratic Party, particularly in view of the fact that there is a threatened closedown or walkout at the Hospital for Sick Children tomorrow, a hospital which the Minister of Health holds very sacred and for which he has held out special action.

The Premier (Mr. Davis) is now coming into the House, and I hope he has been deputized by the Minister of Health to speak on this matter and bring us up to date on the very serious problems that are affecting our province.

Mr. Kerrio: The Premier has been deputized by Trudeau.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You don't like your national leader?

Mr. Kerrio: No. I just said you were deputized by him.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You don't like your national leader, except when he is up on the polls; then you all want to get on his coattails. When he is down on the polls, you all try to dissociate yourselves from him.

Mr. Breithaupt: Just the way you do.

Mr. Kerrio: The Premier speaks from experience.

Mr. Speaker: Would the Premier like to respond to the Leader of the Opposition?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I will respond to the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Speaker, but I cannot let the opportunity go by since the member for Kitchener (Mr. Breithaupt) got up on his feet. Unlike him, I am consistent; I always support our national leader. I thought the member for Kitchener would have had the good sense to do the same thing. I did not think he was like the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio).

Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether the Leader of the Opposition was asking a question.

Mr. Foulds: No. I rose on a point of order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Was it a point of order?

Mr. Speaker: It was a point of order. He was questioning whether the Minister of Health was going to make a statement on the current situation with the OMA. When the Leader of the Opposition saw you coming in, he took advantage of the situation to suggest that you might refer it to the Minister of Health or answer on his behalf.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, if it was a point of order, I regret I did not hear it. I thought it was a question. If it was a point of order, the Minister of Health is currently in his office at the end of the phone.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: You have already spoken, I would remind you.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, I rise on the same point of order that was raised by our deputy leader. What we asked was whether, if a statement was not available at this point, we might revert to statements at the end of question period or some time later in the day, because we feel the House needs to be filled in.

Mr. Speaker: The time for oral questions will be coming up very shortly.

Mr. Martel: You don't have a minister here.

Mr. Speaker: That is not my concern or my responsibility.

Mr. Foulds: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Is it a new point?

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, under standing order 26(a), surely it is the obligation and duty of the government to inform the members of the House and the people of Ontario of the exact state of the most important matter of public business of this province at this time, and that is the state of negotiations between the Ontario Medical Association and the government of Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: That is exactly what you said before.

Mr. Foulds: That's right.

Mr. Martel: But the Premier was not here before.

SAFETY OF OFFICE EQUIPMENT

Mr. Speaker: At this time I would like to respond to questions raised in the House on April 6 by the member for Waterloo North (Mr. Epp) and the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) concerning the use of video

display terminals by employees in the Legislative Building.

With respect to the equipment installed in the legislative library, members should be aware that recent tests performed by the safety office of the University of Waterloo on similar equipment produced by Geac Canada Ltd. revealed no indication of radiation leakage. However, the legislative library is making arrangements to have its own video display terminals tested independently.

I wish to assure all members that employees in the Legislative Building who are pregnant and are required to operate a word processor with a video display terminal have the option of being transferred to another work area without a pay reduction during their pregnancy period.

I have instructed my senior staff to monitor all areas coming under the jurisdiction of the Speaker where there is video display equipment to ensure that any concerns of employees are looked into to the fullest possible extent.

2:10 p.m.

VISITORS

Mr. Speaker: I would ask all members of the Legislature to join me in welcoming and recognizing, in the Speaker's gallery, the mayors, reeves and administrators of the riding of Cochrane North who are attending a meeting at Queen's Park today:

From the town of Cochrane, we have Mayor Raymond Fortier and Larry Adshead; from the town of Hearst, Mayor Gilles Gagnon and Jacques Côté; from the town of Kapuskasing, Mayor T. K. Jewell and Mat Rukavina; from the town of Smooth Rock Falls, Mayor Roger Duguay and Mrs. Helene Valiquette; from the township of Mattice, Reeve Paul Zorzetto and Yvan Brousseau; from the township of Moonbeam, Reeve Gaetan Filion and André Filion; from the township of Glackmeyer, Reeve Raymond Genier and Ivaneau Thomas; from the township of Opasatika, Reeve Alphonse Pineault and Ben Sigouin; from the township of Val-Rita/Harty, Reeve Muriel Parent and Richard Hein, and from the township of Fauquier, Reeve Raymond Grzela and Paul Morrisette.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

BUDGET

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise the members of the House that on May 13 at 8 p.m. I will be presenting my budget to this Legislature.

JUSTICE SYSTEM IN ONTARIO

Hon. Mr. Sterling: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce and table with the Clerk in the House today a report entitled *The Justice System in Ontario*.

In co-operation with the four ministries in the Justice policy field, the Provincial Secretariat for Justice has produced an information booklet which provides an overview of Ontario's justice system. This is the latest effort of the Justice secretariat in fulfilling its commitment to ensure that the public is informed not only about how the justice system works but also about the role of each citizen in maintaining a justice system that seeks to shape a society that is fair and equal.

This booklet will be distributed widely throughout the school system and to the general public and will be available in French in about two weeks' time. I feel that this booklet is also timely in that it offers a concise outline of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

I believe this publication will improve public knowledge and awareness of the various components of our justice system in this province.

ORAL QUESTIONS

PHYSICIANS' SERVICES

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Health (Mr. Grossman), I have a question for the Premier.

It was reported yesterday that the Minister of Health is going to investigate every instance of cancelled surgery at the Hospital for Sick Children. It was reported that he knows how traumatic these operations and cancellations can be for young children, as do the Premier and I.

I am interested in asking the Premier how he distinguishes between that traumatic experience and the trauma experienced by a 15-year-old, a 50-year-old or an 82-year-old. What criteria are the government employing to determine who is experiencing trauma and who is not?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I do not think the government can assess the measure of concern or trauma, whatever term one may wish to use. I know and I really think the Minister of Health was reflecting a point of view that would be shared by all citizens of this province.

I do not say any hospital is unique—and that is perhaps not quite the correct way to phrase it—but a particular concern was expressed with respect to the Hospital for Sick Children. The

minister has said publicly that, in terms of his responsibilities, he or the ministry will be checking the situation at Sick Children's on an individual basis.

I think if the minister were present with us he would be expressing a particular regret. All of these walkouts, or whatever term one may wish to use, I believe we all feel are regrettable. I think he was expressing a view that the one at Sick Children's was perhaps somewhat unique; perhaps it is not. I think he was reflecting a concern that a lot of people would share.

While I am on my feet, Mr. Speaker, in an attempt to answer the points of order, I would like to make it very clear that the Minister of Health is very actively involved. I can give to the members of the House the locations, as I understand them, of the walkouts, or whatever term is being used, today. They are at Etobicoke General Hospital, Queensway General Hospital, St. Joseph's, Richmond Hill, Thornhill, Markham, Oshawa, Whitby, Simcoe, Delhi, Ottawa, Timmins and South Porcupine. By and large, that is the list of where the walkouts are occurring.

The minister may be here later in the question period. I certainly will get in touch with him, and if he has some further information that would be helpful to impart to the members of this House I know he would only be too willing to do so.

In fairness, we all recognize the sensitivity and the importance of this issue, and the minister really feels that in terms of his responsibility he is allocating his time at this precise moment in an appropriate fashion.

Mr. Peterson: We all recognize the sensitivity of the matter, and we all share the same concern for young people that the minister and the Premier have. But let me tell the honorable members of a note that I just got which says that Metropolitan General Hospital in Windsor has a sign on it that the cancer clinic will be closed tomorrow because of the doctors' walkout. What about the trauma that is experienced by a cancer patient who goes to that clinic for help tomorrow? What about the other cases across this province which are creating anxiety and hardship in people?

How can the minister selectively intervene only in certain cases? How can he intervene only at the Hospital for Sick Children? How can he go only to the Doctors' Hospital and say: "I did you a favour a few years ago; you owe me one this time. Please do not walk out"? What kind of government policy is that?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I recognize how easy it is in opposition to ask the questions; and they are fair questions, I am not quarrelling with them. I have been intrigued, as I have watched the news reports on this issue, by just how reluctant the leader of the Liberal Party of Ontario is to say what his position is and what he would do.

In fact, as I understand it, when he was asked by one member of the press gallery whether the honorariums being received by the medical profession were appropriate, the Leader of the Opposition said that was an unfair question. I have never heard of such a response in my life.

Out in our part of the country we either fish or cut bait. Why does he not say whether he thinks it is an appropriate response? Why does he not say whether he thinks the 11 per cent and three per cent is an appropriate response? Why does he not have the courage to say that the Minister of Health is dealing with this in a very logical and sensitive fashion, which he is? Why does he not have the courage to say some of those things?

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, in this House, in response to what I believe was my question about the strike at the Hospital for Sick Children and the withholding of medical services from a child at Etobicoke General Hospital as part of a strike action, the Minister of Health characterized that behaviour as intolerable, and has been quoted in the press as saying the same behaviour is barbaric.

May I ask the Premier very simply whether his government is prepared to bring in an amendment to regulation 448 of the Health Disciplines Act which would make the withholding of medical services for purposes of negotiation or bargaining one of the definitions of professional misconduct?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, once again I recognize the sincerity with which the question is asked. I say to the honourable member that I believe the minister is dealing in a very sensitive and realistic fashion with this problem that is confronting all of us, and the government is not contemplating any legislative changes as part of this process.

2:20 p.m.

Mr. Peterson: I am going to ask the decisive Premier a question. What is his position on the walkout at the Hospital for Sick Children tomorrow, and what is he going to do about it?

Hon. Mr. Davis: My position on the walkout at the Hospital for Sick Children tomorrow is similar to, but perhaps somewhat different

from, what it was on the walkout at Peel Memorial Hospital. I make my position very clear: it is extremely unfortunate.

It is important to remind the general public that the government of this province, through the Minister of Health, made suggestions that were implemented—not imposed—on April 1, when the former agreement ran out. We were able to program the computers so the medical profession in this province would not be prejudiced because there was a delay in reaching an agreement.

The Minister of Health has made it abundantly clear to the Ontario Medical Association's negotiating committee that this government is prepared to sit down and discuss the issues. There have been some preliminary conversations. I have expressed personal regret that the medical profession has sought this route to impress upon the government its sincerely held concerns.

I do understand the concerns being expressed by the medical profession. I conveyed my disappointment to the two young gentlemen who were in my office to see me, not so much as Premier but as their local member, as so many members of the OMA are doing with all of us. I said I was disappointed that the medical profession would seize this route to communicate to us its disappointment and concern.

I noted that I had been Premier for some 11 years and that prior to that, when I was Minister of Education, I had met thousands of students on the front steps. I made it clear that this government cannot be pressured in that sort of way. I think it is fair to state that our responsibility is not to represent just a particular professional group in this province, in spite of the close relationship, but to reflect the concerns of the public at large.

No one would more like to see this matter brought to a reasonably successful conclusion than the Minister of Health or the members of the government. I know that from the perspective of the Leader of the Opposition it appears simplistic, in spite of the fact that he has no position on the issue. I can only say to him that this government, through the minister, is working hourly, every minute, every day, both on the situation within the hospitals and on our negotiations with the medical profession of this province.

Mr. Peterson: I have no idea what the Premier has just said, but I thank him for his clear response.

TAX POLICY

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the Treasurer a question. I am sure the Treasurer is aware of the Premier's (Mr. Davis) remarks in New York this week and perhaps participated in drafting them. It was a very clear and definitive speech on the protectionist issue and came down unequivocally on both sides of that issue. He said in that speech, quoting Arthur Okun, "Economic sacrifice is acceptable to people only when accompanied by a sense of equity." These are remarks to which he wholeheartedly subscribed.

The Treasurer has been unwilling to match the federal tax reduction for lower-income families in Ontario, and he is increasing the tax burden this year—automatically, as a result of last year's budget—to 48 per cent. Can he explain where there is equity in this system when he is further eroding the purchasing power of the lower-income groups in this province?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I suppose that is one of the better speeches the Leader of the Opposition has given, reading my Premier's comments in New York city. I did not help write it; I would not have the temerity to do that. But on our side of the House most of us think the same way; we do not have the problems that some members of the honourable member's party have.

Ontario does compensate at the low end of the income scale through a number of techniques. First, our rate this year at 48 per cent actually will raise less income tax from a person whose salary did not increase than it did last year. That is because the 12.2 per cent indexation factor used will lower the taxable figures for most people across the system.

Second, we do have the Ontario tax credits, which are income-related and are quite generous; so I do not think it is easy to make the kind of comparison the member is making.

We raise, through all forms of taxes, the amount of money needed to run the budget on a reasonably sound financial and fiscal basis. That is something they have not learned to do in Ottawa, and I hope they learn to do it soon.

Mr. Peterson: The minister is also aware of the discussion he had in the House the other day, trying to discover what the poverty line was in Ontario. Since he is not prepared to move on any kind of tax relief for low-income people, does he really believe that \$7,380 for a family of

four on welfare comes close to meeting the basic needs of that family?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I find that unrelated to the first question.

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary; the member for Hamilton Mountain.

Mr. Cooke: Windsor-Riverside, Mr. Speaker. I represent the riding of Windsor-Riverside.

Mr. Speaker, is the Treasurer aware that, based on a tax chart that was part of the recent Saskatchewan budget and compared taxes paid by a family of four earning \$15,000, we in Ontario pay the highest taxes of any province of this country, including the Ontario health insurance plan taxes? At that income level, \$745 is paid in Ontario and in Saskatchewan they get a rebate of \$241. At the \$20,000 level, in Ontario \$1,277 is paid in taxes and in Saskatchewan \$459. Again at the \$20,000 level we are number one.

In view of the fact that he will bring down his budget on May 13, is it not time the Treasurer took action on the OHIP premiums and started lowering them, since the public pays more in OHIP premiums in this province at those levels than it pays in income tax? It is an unfair form of taxation. When is he going to bring in some equity?

Mr. Speaker: Just before the Treasurer answers, I want to recognize the member for Windsor-Riverside and apologize for misnaming the riding.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, it is easy to pick any specific tax and make the kind of calculations the honorable member is making. The fact is that Ontario spends less per capita to run government than any other province in Canada.

Mr. Peterson: What we are talking about in this series of questions is the plight of the poor in Ontario. Is the minister aware that the dean of community services at Ryerson says there are 100,000 children living in poverty in this province, and that he, as the Treasurer, has a number of options on how to correct that inequity in our system? Why does he not do something about it? Why does he not sell the jet? That alone would bring more than 3,000 children above the poverty line. Why does he not take those kinds of cost-cutting measures and spend the money where it should be properly spent in this province to solve a real social problem?

Hon. F. S. Miller: It is nice to see the

honourable member did not read that question; it is the first of the three that he did not.

The member has only had two things to talk about since he became leader, either Suncor or the jet. He ties everything to those two things simply because he does not have anything else to criticize this government about. This government has shown, and I am sure the people of the province agree, a great sensitivity to these people at all levels of society and will continue to do so.

AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry and Trade.

Is the minister aware that Chrysler's Detroit head office game plan has left Canada with a deficit of about \$500 million last year, the equivalent of 5,000 jobs? Is it true that the \$10 million the government has agreed to put up towards the Perkins-Chrysler diesel facility in Windsor is the same \$10 million that the government previously offered to put up for Chrysler to build a new research and development centre in Windsor? Is it true that Chrysler is refusing to make a firm commitment to purchase diesel engines from the plant in Canada, should it go forward, if it can source them cheaper either in Trenton, Michigan or Mexico?

2:30 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, the answer to the first question is that the honorable member seems to be without his facts. The answer to the second and third questions is no.

Mr. Foulds: It is too bad the minister is not informed of what is going on.

The Premier (Mr. Davis) went to New York to complain about Japanese imports and the devastating impact they are having on the Canadian auto industry. Is it not about time the minister and the Premier went to Detroit and talked to Ford, General Motors and Chrysler to make sure we get our fair share of parts production for automobiles produced in Canada by the Big Three?

Hon. Mr. Walker: I am informed that in the last 17 years during which the auto pact has operated, Chrysler in Canada has been out of whack or out of balance for two of those years and for the remaining 15 has been in total shape.

Mr. Foulds: You are misinformed and you are misinforming the House.

Hon. Mr. Walker: I rather suspect the misinformation lies mostly on the other side and not on our side. It is my understanding that at this

very moment Chrysler is \$500 million ahead, not \$500 million behind.

The member suggests we go to Detroit and tell them we want more of the balance. He might not appreciate that the first steps were taken as recently as a few days ago to convert the Windsor van production plant with some \$354 million invested by Chrysler. I think the member should be saying, "Thank goodness Chrysler is doing something." In fact, Chrysler is about the only company at the moment that is going on overtime with respect to vans and large automobiles. We should be happy that Chrysler is here in Canada.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, to return to the matter of the research facility, can the minister give us assurances that any help the provincial government may offer to get the diesel engine plant on stream will be separate and apart from the \$10-million grant that was part of the Chrysler loan guarantee of 1981? Can the minister inform the House when a beginning on that research facility is expected?

Hon. Mr. Walker: The answer to the first question is yes. The answer to the second question is, I do not know. It is up to them to take down the money. The offer is there but Chrysler has yet to take down the money on the \$20-million facility, of which Ontario would pay \$10 million.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, whenever we ask this government about Ford, the reply is that they do not have a deficit; when we ask about General Motors, they do not have a deficit; when we ask about Chrysler, they do not have a deficit; yet we are still running a \$2-billion deficit. How does that deficit occur?

Before the minister answers, perhaps I could ask a question. He can just sit down for a minute. I would like to ask the minister—

Mr. Speaker: That was a statement.

Mr. Cooke: That is right, that was a statement.

Mr. Speaker: Your supplementary now, please.

Mr. Cooke: Is the minister aware that Chrysler Corp. has made a decision to move the vast majority of its purchasing department out of Windsor to Detroit? It will now be Americans who are making the decisions, even, for the sourcing of tooling, the engineering and all the equipment needed for the T-115. Does the minister honestly believe that Americans in Detroit are going to buy tooling from Canadian suppliers, or is this just another example of

Americans making crucial economic decisions for Canadians?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, in reply to the member for humble Riverside I would have to say that the move, if the move is to occur in full, may find many of the Canadian people working out of that centre and may lead to a much more beneficial approach.

ASSISTANCE TO HOME OWNERS

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Treasurer. He will recall that we have asked him several times since the beginning of this session what steps this government will take to remedy the situation of people losing their homes because of the present economic situation.

Is he aware that in my home town of Thunder Bay the situation is so serious that an independent agency, the Thunder Bay Family and Credit Counselling Agency, which is funded to a large extent by this government, has written to both the local members of the Legislature indicating that in the last two months it has had 11 clients who have lost their homes or are about to lose them through foreclosure, power of sale or just by giving up their homes because they cannot maintain the payments? Six of the families have already lost their homes and the other five will lose them within the next month unless there is a drastic improvement in the economy.

What steps is this government going to take to ensure that people such as these people in Thunder Bay and the people we have referred to in Chatham and Windsor will not lose their homes? Is the minister willing to institute a moratorium?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, a moratorium, as opposed to assistance, is quite a different thing.

I am as concerned as the member is about that problem. I have been checking with my colleague the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett) to see whether he is aware of any degree of success or even of the commencement of the announced program under which there was to be assistance for people whose mortgage payments exceeded 30 per cent of their family income.

As the member knows, that was announced and alleged to be the mechanism to help people for a period of at least one year. I have not heard of that program being in place yet. I have heard of a number of people anxious to use the proposed program and I would like to take the

time to find out if the applications are being processed yet; I sense they are not.

I am afraid the member will have to wait for me to bring out a budget before discussing the balance of his question.

Mr. Foulds: Does the Treasurer think it is of very much comfort to these people and people like them all across the province who are losing their homes, to wait for the next six weeks for his budget, which has already been delayed?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: It is four weeks.

Mr. Foulds: In the light of the economic conditions in cities like Thunder Bay—where Unemployment Insurance Commission claimants are up at least 10.6 per cent, welfare payments are up 15.3 per cent, projected bankruptcies, personal and business, are up 84 per cent—what steps will this government take to ensure that the real human costs of those statistics are met and dealt with? People in their forties and fifties who are losing their homes will never again have a chance of getting homes in this province.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Unless the statistics I receive are not correct, the actual number of people losing their homes is remarkably low. There are a lot of people in difficulties, but I am talking about the need to take action. I have been trying to keep up to date with those statistics, and I am told they are lower than they were a year ago.

That does not imply there are no difficulties, but it does seem to imply to me—and certainly sales of major consumer items such as automobiles and home appliances would bear this out—that people have been changing their priorities. They have been freeing up more of their money by putting off major purchases and shoring up payments on their homes first. It would seem, on the basis of repossessions, that may be the case, except in isolated cities.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, in view of these problems, is the Treasurer again contemplating bringing in a forgiveness program on sales tax for automobiles in order to stimulate that industry?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, the member accuses me of having a one-track mind. He sure has.

2:40 p.m.

Mr. Foulds: Will the Treasurer be so good as to table the figures he has, giving us a breakdown of the people who have lost their homes?

The Liberal Party may think this is a funny subject but we surely do not.

Could I ask him to tell us what steps his government will take to ensure that those people who have invested considerable equity in their homes, those people in their forties and fifties who are now losing their homes, will have action by this government, such as a moratorium, to give them a year's breathing space so that they will at least have a chance to maintain their homes, because never again will they get a chance to buy a home in this province?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, it is in everyone's interest to protect people who are in difficulty on a temporary basis and to allow them to stay in their homes. I share that completely with the member.

I can tell the member that a number of us have been talking to both lenders and people in the building industry, as my colleague from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has and I certainly have, to try to find all of the inventive ways possible to prevent any massive problem.

I want to point out one thing. The simplistic moratorium such as that proposed by Saskatchewan is fraught with certain risks, because there are two parties to every mortgage. There is the person who lends and the person who borrows. The assumption that the bank is the lender is, almost in all cases, wrong. It happens to be individuals who lend. One of the quickest ways to dry up those sources of money is to pull off one of those tricks.

Mr. Foulds: You know houses for resale are being remortgaged at a figure below the going rate. You know that happens. What about tabling the figures?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

HYDRO EXPORTS

Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of the Environment. He may be aware that Ontario Hydro has announced the signing of a contract with the Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. to supply 400 megawatts of coal-fired electricity over the next 50 weeks. This power is required by the Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. because it has had some problems with the Nine Mile Point nuclear reactor. So that the minister does not get confused, let us call this the son of General Public Utilities contract.

Since there will obviously be acid rain impact on us, can the minister inform us whether the

Ministry of the Environment was involved in discussions surrounding the signing of this contract?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I cannot confirm the accuracy of the assumptions that were implicit in the question, but I can tell the member that I was not involved in any such discussion.

Mr. Elston: Since we know that the Ministry of the Environment was not involved in the discussions, is the minister aware that the export arrangement will result in sulphur dioxide emissions of approximately 37,360 metric tons, which has the potential to kill 26 Ontario lakes over the term of this export of power from coal-fired plants? Why was the ministry not involved in the discussions on the deal? When will Ontario Hydro provide the leadership in the reduction of acid rain emissions that the throne speech has promised?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I would urge the member to be aware of the danger in that kind of mathematical exercise that he is engaged in. I can assure him that in spite of what his researcher said, or what certain other persons with a keen interest in this subject say, there is really no basis upon which one can make those kinds of simplistic and potentially very misleading calculations.

I do not know what the subject matter of that particular contract is. It may well be a contract for interruptible power to meet peak requirements, in which case it would presumably be covered by the approvals that Ontario already has through the National Energy Board and all necessary agencies for interruptible exports, which they have been engaged in for many years.

It is also important for the member and everyone else to bear in mind that regardless of what interruptible exports Hydro may engage in, or if it were to get approval for some firm exports in the future, it is bound by the requirements of the regulation placed on it in terms of sulphur emissions. It does not have any exemption from that.

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources. Why did the minister feel it necessary to have his district managers across the province ordered by telex not to hire up to 500 people this summer, but rather that those jobs should be kept open for

referrals, as they are called, from the minister and his friends?

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, there is no change in the policy with respect to hiring this summer. It is traditional there be some allocation from the head office. The member and others of his party have taken advantage of that.

Mr. Laughren: We on this side of the House have been maligned. Does the minister not understand the resentment that policy causes among his own district managers in view of the fact there are high unemployment levels in many of the districts, particularly in northern Ontario? Does he not understand that many of the people who will not be able to get jobs because of the minister's political referrals are the best trained people, that these are the best paying jobs, and that these are the jobs which require experience and, in some cases, college and university training?

Will the minister direct his district managers to ignore that telex order from head office so we can have some justice, particularly in those communities in the north where they want and need to hire local people to fill those local jobs?

Hon. Mr. Pope: I reiterate there has been no change. The honourable member will know, if he has done his research, that we have hired virtually every applicant for the Junior Ranger program and that we have expanded a number of other summer employment programs this summer. The next time the member or one of the members of his party comes to see me about summer employment, he should remember this question today.

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege as to the minister's response: Is the minister telling us that because we ask a question on the hiring policies of his ministry, from this point on any referrals that might come from this side of the House or any concerns that may be expressed on this side of the House about employment in communities where there is high unemployment, particularly in northern Ontario, will not be given serious consideration because we exercised our responsibilities to pursue the policies of his ministry?

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, that is not exactly what I said. I said the next time I would remind them of the question. I did not say there would be any change in the service we attempt to provide to members of this House on their requests.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, the minister stated in the House that the 500 positions referred to in

this telex are not a deviation from past performance and past political referrals. Will the minister table in the House the number of people who have received jobs for the last five years in regard to such referrals and the parties they came from?

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, I do not have that information.

EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES; AUTOMOTIVE HARDWARE DISPUTE

Mr. Kolyn: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Will the minister indicate what action he is prepared to take with respect to Dolores Kelly, a single mother who was denied employment with J. M. Schneider Inc. of Kitchener because of her past history of a cancer operation? Is this type of employment discrimination acceptable to the ministry?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, before I address that, I thought the honourable member was going to ask me a question about Automotive Hardware, because there is some—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

2:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I will get to the answer to the question in just a moment. I wanted to advise the member, because it is very encouraging news, that a tentative settlement has been reached in what has been a very arduous and lengthy period of negotiation. That particular company is in the riding of the member who just asked the question. The ratification vote will be taken on Sunday.

In response to the question that was asked by the member, I believe he asked me if I condoned that type of action. If the facts are correct, I do not condone that type of action at all.

Mr. Kolyn: I thank the minister for the information about Automotive Hardware. Can the minister ask the Ontario Human Rights Commission to accept an informal complaint to help effect a settlement on a good offices basis in this particular case?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: The new Human Rights Code, Bill 7, prohibits discrimination in employment because of handicap, unless the handicap renders the person incapable of performing the essential duties of the job. As I understand this particular circumstance, the lady's health is quite sufficient for her to do the job in a capable manner.

The new Human Rights Code will not be proclaimed until June of this year and at the moment we do not have any legislation to cover it, but I will certainly be pleased to have the Ontario Human Rights Commission look into the matter.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, can the minister explain why the bill passed on December 11 will not be proclaimed until June? In December of last year he was made aware of another case in Etobicoke in which similar discrimination took place. In spite of statements by the Ontario division of the Canadian Cancer Society that it was a common occurrence that cancer and ex-cancer patients were being discriminated against, why has he not seen fit to proclaim at least sections 4 and 9 of the bill so that this will not go on until June?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I can only repeat that the plans are to proclaim it. I sympathize with the matter the member has brought forward, more so than he might appreciate or realize.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I have a personal circumstance of quite similar nature and that is why I have more than normal sympathy in the matter.

PROTECTION OF FISH

Mr. McGuigan: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Natural Resources. This year the coming of spring is one of the latest on record. Is the minister going to extend the protection period for the spawning pickerel on the Thames River? A portion of the river has been declared a wildlife sanctuary and the normal expiry date is today.

I am told that on the basis of the tagging operations carried on, it appears very few of the pickerel have spawned so far. Is the minister going to extend this period for the commercial fishermen and the sports fishermen, and also the Indian people on the Moravian reserve?

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, it sounds reasonable. I really do not have the answer but I will get back to the member before the day is out.

Mr. McGuigan: I appreciate the minister's response. I want to note the urgency of it being done today. I would point out the same condition exists for trout fishing in the Huron-Bruce area. The time period there runs out on the fourth Saturday in April. This year that falls on April 24, so it is actually an early date in a late

year. I would ask the minister to look into that situation also.

Hon. Mr. Pope: Yes, I will.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I have a new question for the Minister of Labour. Since all the workers in the mill area in Elliot Lake have been considered to have zero exposure to radiation despite working there maybe 20 years, what steps have now been taken to review all the claims of mill workers in view of the fact that the Workmen's Compensation Board has accepted two claims for exposure to gamma radiation in Chalk River—the same type of exposure, I understand, that the workers are exposed to in the mills at Elliot Lake?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, there are discussions going on on that very point between my ministry and the Workmen's Compensation Board.

Mr. Martel: Since the only form of cancer recognized now at Elliot Lake is for underground miners exposed to radon daughters, and since the WCB is now prepared to accept two claims at Chalk River, are we now prepared to look at leukaemia and cancer in other organs? This is of particular concern in view of this recent statement by the Atomic Energy Control Board: "Although at present only radon daughter exposures are generally monitored and recorded in the mill and mine facilities, the workers are exposed to other radiation, e.g., external, which is gamma and beta thoron daughters in some mines and radioactive ores or concentrate dust. All these components have a cumulative potential health effect."

With this new approach by AECB, is it not time that we get on the ball and recognize those people who have died from cancer in the mills in Elliot Lake?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I find it difficult to accept that last statement by the member for Sudbury East. The Ministry of Labour and the Workmen's Compensation Board have dealt with this matter in a most serious way. There has been considerable progress made. I would like to think we are certainly on the right track.

I would like to take the opportunity at this time, if I may, to make a couple of comments that I believe are relevant. I hope members will bear with me, because normally my responses have been of a brief nature.

I have great respect for the member for

Sudbury East. He has brought many incidents to my attention in the past few weeks. I think he will acknowledge that I have attempted to be extremely co-operative and to follow up in each and every case. My approach has been conciliatory rather than defensive. I could have answered questions earlier on the spot if I had wanted to be defensive, but I wanted to be able to provide substantive answers.

I am concerned, and this is the point I am getting to, that my approach could be construed as agreement in total with the complaints I have been receiving about the enforcement of the Occupational Health and Safety Act. I believe we have excellent inspectors. Their numbers are limited as far as inspections are concerned. However, I do not believe in a battalion or shock-troop approach to these problems.

The impression is being left—I know it has not been left intentionally, and I do not want to make that point—that all employers in this province are crass, uncaring, inconsiderate types. That is simply not so. The vast majority are concerned and responsible people. It is the 10 per cent who are not on whom we must place all possible pressure, and that is what we are attempting to do.

3 p.m.

Mr. Martel: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: I am not sure what prompted that little discussion with me that the minister has been so kind to present to the House. I was talking about the effects of gamma radiation—

Mr. Speaker: Can you tell us what your point of privilege is?

Mr. Martel: He did not answer the question, first of all.

Mr. Speaker: That is no privilege.

Mr. Martel: Just a second, Mr. Speaker. You then allowed him to go on under a totally different topic from what I was saying about inspectors. I was not even talking about inspectors; I was talking about the gamma ray exposure the WCB has just recognized in Chalk River.

Mr. Speaker: I heard both the question and the answers.

Mr. Martel: If this is an apology, I accept it.

Mr. Speaker: Order. A final supplementary from the member for London North. No supplementary? A new question then.

Mr. Breaugh: If you would like a new question, I have one.

Mr. Speaker: No. I have one over here, thank you.

SAFETY OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Mr. Van Horne: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a new question and not a supplementary. It is addressed to the Solicitor General.

While the minister is taking his place, I will point out that on November 7, 1981, an 18-month-old child, Randall Phillip Winter, died when he fell between vertical guardrails of a staircase in London's Centennial Hall. One month later a coroner's inquest recommended that the Ontario government institute a rehabilitation program aimed at upgrading safety in public and private buildings.

Is the Solicitor General prepared to recommend to the appropriate ministries that this coroner's recommendation be acted upon?

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of that inquest and the results, but I will review the matter and see whether any recommendations can be instituted by the government. If there are, I will make recommendations to any of my colleagues where they would be able to update any legislation where those safety recommendations could be instituted.

Mr. Van Horne: While the Solicitor General does that, will he report back to us the status of safety inspection in public buildings?

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Yes.

MUNICIPAL ASSESSMENTS

Mr. Breaugh: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Revenue. In his budget projections this year he has added in excess of \$12 million for assessment purposes. How much of that more than \$12 million is going into the one super revenue reassessment here in Metropolitan Toronto?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: I missed the first part of the question, Mr. Speaker, but is the honourable member referring to our 1982-83 estimates?

Mr. Breaugh: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Fine. The question does allude to the 1982-83 estimates process which, of course, we are just getting into. There will be ample time to get into that in great detail. In the meantime, I am prepared to answer that question.

Regarding the responsibilities under the Assessment Act we are asked to carry forward, doubtless one of them is to respond to the request made by municipalities under section 86 of the old act, now section 63 of the Assessment

Act. Delivering those responsibilities has added burdens and hence additional cash necessities. One of these is the tax impact study now under way in the Metropolitan Toronto area, in the two cities and four boroughs. That is not the only reason relating to the increased expenditures of the ministry, but there is no doubt that it is a significant portion thereof.

Mr. Breagh: Is it true that this week, for example, the minister has 100 assessment officers from around the province working here in Metro on this project and that by next week he will have brought in somewhere in the neighbourhood of 200 people from outside Metro—assessment people from Hamilton, Chatham, Owen Sound, Guelph and Windsor—to work on this one project?

It is reported that the price tag for this project will be about \$1 million a week for those reassessment purposes. On Tuesday of this week the minister brought in special legislation to unscrew a mess he created in Metro last year. He intends to proceed with a program of reassessment that is going to cost about \$1 million a week in salary, overtime and benefits, and take away assessment officers from all these other Ontario centres. How does the minister justify that?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: As usual, the facts in the possession of the honourable member are in error, but there is nothing new about that.

We have no additional assessors in Metropolitan Toronto this week. There could be one here for a given reason, but there are no significant numbers here. Next week we will have somewhere in the area of 100 in total in Metropolitan Toronto. There is no doubt about that; that is an ongoing situation. We have done that in every sizeable area where a section 86 impact study has been requested by the duly elected representatives of municipal government. That is a fact that eludes the member.

As to whether the moneys are well spent, I do not agree with his conclusions as to the numbers, because as usual they are grossly overstated. If we can give a service requested by duly elected representatives in municipal government, we are responsible for any reasonable amount of moneys that have to be dedicated for the delivery of the services we are asked to provide under the statutes.

Mr. Ruprecht: Mr. Speaker, I am in possession of a letter from the minister to an assessor outside Toronto informing him that he must spend two out of every three weeks in Toronto

to assist with the simulation study relating to section 63. The assessor is being provided with a minimum of \$19 per day for meals and \$1,000 as a salary advance.

Mr. Speaker: I am waiting for the supplementary question.

Mr. Ruprecht: The minister is surely aware that at least one municipality has complained to him about the staff shortage he is creating around the province as a result of this move. Is this not a clear abuse of taxpayers' money and an unnecessary strain on these assessors and their families, who will be separated from each other for an indefinite period of time?

Further, why is the minister unwilling to roll back the 6,826 reassessments for this year, return his staff from outside Toronto to their home offices and do the simulation relating to section 63 with regular Toronto staff when time permits?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member should know but obviously does not know. He has tried to confuse and muddy the waters of two issues which do not relate to each other at all.

When the member refers to rollbacks, in my view that is an issue that has already been dealt with in a fair and equitable manner in the legislation I introduced last week, and it will be dealt with on second reading. We will be happy to hear his views the week after next.

As far as the assessors being brought in from other parts of the province are concerned, these are dedicated civil servants who are being asked to go above and beyond their normal duties and they are being advanced expense money. It has nothing to do with salary. It has to do with expenses they are going to have. They are being asked to come here on a two-week basis and then go back to the municipalities for which they have responsibilities for a week.

Contrary to what has been alluded to in the question, this does not necessarily mean the same people are being brought back two weeks out of three on a continuous basis. That will not be the case. They have responsibilities at home and, as always, their families will be looked upon with great sympathy and compassion by this government and this ministry.

Mr. Charlton: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: The minister has suggested that assessors on the two-weeks-on, one-week-off rotation will not be brought in on a continuing basis. Will he please define "continuing," because some

assessors have been told they will be doing that from now until the end of August?

Mr. Speaker: Order. That is not a point of privilege. The member for Essex North (Mr. Ruston). Order. I did not see the member for Sudbury (Mr. Gordon), but he was on his feet first.

Mr. Gordon: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Peterson: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: With great respect, if you did not see him, how did you know he was on his feet first? I have seen you miss speakers on other occasions and miss the rotation here. You should go with the person you see originally. Surely that is fair in the circumstances.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, it is indeed fair, but we are going in rotation.

Ms. Copps: On the same point of order, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Just a minute. I think there have been many more questions on this side of the House than on the government side.

Mr. Peterson: Isn't that strange.

Mr. Speaker: No, it is not all that strange. I guess in a sense of fairness, and I think that is really what we are here for—

Mr. Riddell: Well, the questions on that side of the House, like the answers, are a lot of drivel anyway.

Mr. Speaker: Order. That is a matter of opinion.

3:10 p.m.

MINE SHUTDOWNS

Mr. Gordon: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources.

The minister met the president of the United Steelworkers in Sudbury as well as the members from the Sudbury region. At that time, he gave us a commitment that he, along with Mr. Axworthy, was going to provide some relief under section 38 for some of the laid-off miners and smelter workers in Sudbury.

We have not heard anything from the minister. He made that commitment some weeks ago; I want an answer.

Mr. Martel: You never have an issue of your own.

Mr. Speaker: I do not think that was a prepared question, with all respect.

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, on a Sunday afternoon in March we met representatives of the steelworkers' union, municipal representatives and the three members from the Sudbury area. I indicated we had made application.

I just want to confirm that on February 19, 1982, I sent a telex to Mr. Axworthy, indicating that we were willing to become involved in the Canada community development program. There was one proposal under that program we were interested in pursuing, and I quote: "Another project that I have in mind is the identification and fencing of abandoned mine openings that currently represent a serious hazard to health and safety."

On February 25, I sent another telex to the Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, indicating that we had set funding aside in the Ministry of Natural Resources 1982-1983 budget in anticipation of allocating some money to Ontario under section 38 of the Unemployment Insurance Act. That was to create jobs for laid-off mine workers in communities where it is important that the skills represented by those who are unemployed be retained. I indicated that the fencing and capping of abandoned mine openings was an example that I considered having some potential for employment.

We remain committed to this program. The Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) has discussed funding of the program.

We received a reply on March 12 from Mr. Axworthy, indicating that he was looking at our section 38 employment program and thought some progress could be made that way.

Since that time, officials of the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Natural Resources have been meeting representatives of the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission and specifically Mr. Fox, the Ontario director. We have made progress respecting some specific programs in the Sudbury area, the Bancroft area, the Timmins area and, we hope, in a couple of areas in northwestern Ontario.

We have been in touch with the companies and the manpower adjustment committees respecting specific, detailed discussions of these proposals. The federal House is off this week. Mr. Axworthy will be back on Monday, and we anticipate arriving at some agreement in the near future between the federal and provincial governments.

At the March meeting, we also received some details of proposed programs under development by the manpower adjustment committee involving the tailings area, research mines,

transfers, apprenticeship transfers and a land reclamation program, which I suggested at that meeting might be the operating authority under which that program could be funded; it could be the regional conservation authority.

Our officials met the manpower adjustment committee and the companies to indicate the criteria of section 38 and the existing programs of the federal government that could be utilized to employ some of these laid-off workers, but some of these projects do not qualify under those criteria. We have been working with the groups and I am hopeful the matter will be cleared up in the next week. We have not been ignoring the situation.

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: In view of the fact that I raised this precise question to the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Mr. Henderson) last week and he promised to pass the question on to the Minister of Natural Resources, and since the Minister of Natural Resources did not respond to my question, are we to take it that the minister's finely tuned sense of political patronage extends to the answering of questions in this chamber?

Hon. Mr. Pope: I wanted to wait to reply to the question, because I would rather have had the agreement signed with the federal government than discuss who had done what.

Mr. Laughren: It's called sleaze.

Hon. Mr. Pope: Talking about sleaze, I advised the member's House leader on Tuesday afternoon and evening that I would not be here on Thursday; so the member waited until Thursday to raise the questions.

EXTENSION OF QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, I hesitate to put my foot in the sleaze here. On two occasions during today's question period, the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay), who happens to be the one who did it today, interrupted the question period to make a totally unrelated, prepared statement. I wonder whether you might take that into consideration, either by adding time to the question period or by providing some directive to the ministers that if they want to revert to statements that's fine, we can accommodate that, but at least we should recognize when a minister does read a prepared statement.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much. Of course, I recognized that. I allowed the minister to answer the question, because he could have taken time in question period to respond to a

previously asked question. I thought it would be quicker and would take less time to allow him to proceed in the way he did.

For the information of all honourable members, question period has been extended five minutes beyond the time allotted. I did that intentionally.

Mr. Sargent: Supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry; there are no supplementaries.

INTEREST RATES

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: In considering the supplementary estimates of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing last week, we had a long and strenuous debate with the minister about his lack of movement in the housing and mortgage interest fields. He promised he would deliver some answers to me concerning the Alaska six per cent mortgage plan, which has things booming up there now. Has the minister given that any study, and does he have any answers for the House as to what he is going to do about it?

Mr. Speaker: I am sure the minister will have the answer, but I think it should probably be in the form of a ministerial statement at the appropriate time.

Mr. Sargent: Is he going to move or not?

Mr. Speaker: That is a question that would be more appropriately asked in question period.

Mr. Sargent: Let him answer it.

Mr. Speaker: Briefly.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Very briefly, Mr. Speaker. I listened to the honourable member last Tuesday in relation to my supplementary estimates and his statement about certain things that were taking place. To the best of my recollection, I did not say I would table any answer to the question in this House, but I can assure this House that any statement made by any member of the House is analysed by the people of my ministry as to the validity of trying to implement a similar program in Ontario, if it is worthy of being implemented.

Mr. Speaker: Obviously there is a difference of opinion.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: I ask all honourable members to cease their private conversations so we may hear the order of business going on in the House. I remind the member for Sudbury East and the Minister of Labour.

3:20 p.m.

REPORT

STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. Barlow from the standing committee on general government presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bills without amendment:

Bill Pr5, An Act respecting the City of Hamilton;

Bill Pr12, An Act respecting the City of Barrie;

Bill Pr16, An Act respecting the City of Brantford.

Your committee begs to report the following bill with certain amendments:

Bill Pr7, An Act respecting the City of Mississauga.

Motion agreed to.

MOTIONS

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that the order for third reading of Bill 6, An Act to revise the Business Corporations Act, be discharged and the bill referred back to the committee of the whole House.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that, notwithstanding standing order 64(d), Mr. Di Santo and Mr. R. F. Johnston exchange positions in the order of precedence for private members' business to be debated.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that the report of December 1980 of the standing committee on procedural affairs, entitled A New Committee System, be placed on the Order Paper for consideration.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY NEGOTIATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Bennett moved, seconded by Hon. Mrs. Birch, first reading of Bill 62, An Act to amend the Municipal Boundary Negotiations Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, the amendment bill seeks to clarify the language and intent of one section of the Municipal Boundary

Negotiations Act, which received third reading in December 1981 and was proclaimed on February 1, 1982.

The bill sets out new procedures for the resolution of municipal boundary disputes, replacing procedures in the Municipal Act, which authorize councils to apply by bylaw to the Ontario Municipal Board for hearing and decision on boundary changes applications.

It also allows the municipal board to assess costs incurred by a municipality whose territory was the subject of an application under the old process against the applicant municipality.

CITY OF NORTH YORK ACT

Mr. Robinson moved, seconded by Ms. Fish, first reading of Bill Pr10, An Act respecting the City of North York.

Motion agreed to.

PLANNING AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Philip moved, seconded by Ms. Bryden, first reading of Bill 63, An Act to amend the Planning Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, this bill gives additional enforcement powers to municipalities that have enacted property standards bylaws. Such municipalities may add the cost of correcting violations of the bylaw to the owner's property tax bill and may enact bylaws authorizing tenants to pay rent to the municipality rather than to the owner until a repair order has been complied with.

Property standards officers may have repairs carried out immediately in emergency situations.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE PAPER

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, before the orders of the day, I wish to table the answers to questions 17, 18, 28, 29 and 30 and the interim answer to question 31 standing on the Notice Paper. (See Hansard for Friday, April 16.)

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS OF ONTARIO

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Speaker, to introduce today's first resolution, allow me to welcome representatives from across the province of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the member please move the resolution in the normal manner, with the seconder, and then he may proceed.

Mr. Gillies: I stand corrected, Mr. Speaker. I am sorry.

Mr. Gillies moved, seconded by Mr. Dean, resolution 12:

That this House acknowledges the tremendous contribution of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Ontario to the growth, maturity and development of young people across the province. Moreover, in recognition of the fact that these clubs require significant assistance from their municipalities and individual volunteers to co-ordinate, manage and supervise their programs, this House urges the Minister of Revenue to consider municipal assessment tax exemptions for the registered affiliates of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: If I may, I would like to remind the honourable member at this time that he has up to 20 minutes for his presentation. He may reserve any portion of that time for the windup.

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Speaker, again, I would like to welcome representatives of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Ontario from across the province who are here today in our galleries. I understand that a number of them are viewing the House proceedings for the first time today. I hope they are finding the experience as enjoyable and as beneficial as I am sure we all do.

I would also like to thank those representatives and members of the House who dropped by today's seminar at lunch time. I think it was informative and put across, in a reasonably successful manner, the argument we are espousing today.

This afternoon, I wish to build on that success. During the next hour I will ask colleagues on both sides of the House to consider and appraise the contribution of the boys' and girls' clubs in communities across the province. Moreover, as evidence of our appreciation and support, I will urge this House to approve the concept of exempting the 22 clubs from property tax assessment.

To this end, let me briefly explain how the resolution came into being. Like many concerns brought to all members of the House, this one originated through a letter from a constituent.

Last year, Mr. Norman Graham, the president of the Boys and Girls Club of Brantford, pointed out that the club's property tax bill for 1981 had just been computed and that the club

would have to return \$3,500 to the city of Brantford. I say return, because the club does receive a grant in excess of this amount from the municipality.

After further discussions, I learned that the Brantford club had been returning a portion of their grant to the municipality for eight years. The total property taxes paid had been more than \$28,000 and, ironically, that club has an accumulated deficit of almost \$30,000.

3:30 p.m.

The facts in this case disturb me. First, the quality of service the club provides to the community is quite remarkable. Operating in the inner city of Brantford, the club makes recreation and guidance a reality for almost 500 young people. Membership fees average \$4.50 annually, and these are often optional. Programs and activities are organized six and sometimes seven days a week by more than 20 volunteers, and a free bus service assists youngsters in coming to the club. As well, the buses are utilized in the summer for outreach and camping activities.

What is most astonishing about the club's operation is the limited support it receives from charitable organizations. Since this club receives no assistance from the United Way, at least in the Brantford instance, it is largely dependent on a municipal grant, plus bingo revenues, income from bake sales and so on.

Equally astonishing is that Brantford is only one of 22 clubs in the province which attempt to provide a consistently first-rate service to the community without significant charitable support and in spite of the property tax burden.

Allow me to put the province-wide organization into some sort of perspective. The 22 boys and girls clubs in Ontario stretch from Niagara Falls to Thunder Bay and encompass communities as diverse as Lindsay and Toronto. More than 1,250 volunteers in the province co-ordinate and supervise the programs for over 16,000 young people. The clubs are affiliated with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Ontario, a nonprofit, nonsectarian youth organization comprising almost 100 chapters nationwide.

All clubs rely heavily on community involvement to organize activities, supervise programs and to help offset the substantial financial burdens incurred by club operations. Volunteers need no specific skill except an ability and a desire to communicate with youngsters. One free night a week and some measure of flexibility and patience are all that is really required.

As for the rewards, I can only remind mem-

bers of the gratification that comes with freely contributing to the quality of a youngster's outlook and development. The Brantford club's motto brings into focus the words, "We believe in the next generation and we are doing something about it."

There are three essential reasons why this House should consider property tax exemptions for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Ontario. With the members' indulgence, I will briefly deal with each of these reasons. The most compelling argument for tax exemption is that of equity. I refer to subsection 10 of section 3 of the Assessment Act which exempts properties owned by the Boy Scouts of Canada and Girl Guides of Canada from property tax assessment.

As I have already gone to great lengths to explain the nature of the service provided by this third organization, there is no benefit in labouring the point they provide a service very similar to that provided by the Boy Scouts and the Girl Guides.

I also point out that the fee structure of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Ontario enables any youngster in the province to participate in club activities. As a result, no child is denied admission because he cannot afford a uniform or an annual fee.

This fact is all the more vital when I remind members that many of the clubs are located in the inner-city cores of their municipalities. For fear the House may be wary of extending a tax break to one organization, certain that other organizations will want the same treatment, I remind members that equity in this case pertains to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Ontario and similar organizations that already enjoy that tax exemption.

It is important to note these three organizations provide a unique and extraordinary service to communities across the province. The fact remains that no other organization provides a similar service. Thus, in the resolution I have proposed, no other organization would be eligible for this tax exemption.

Finally, there is also a question of equity among the 22 clubs themselves, as a number of them have informal or legal arrangements with their municipalities that put into effect the tax exemption but this is not a reality in any equitable form across the 22 clubs.

A second factor which I hope will influence the decision of the House regards the question of lost tax revenue to the municipalities. The revenue collected by five sample municipalities last year was simply grant money being returned

to the same municipality making the grant. It seems almost ludicrous that the clubs, already choked by inadequate financial resources, should have to pay back in tax what they receive as a grant. It is even more ludicrous when one considers that in some cases the taxes exceeded the municipal grant, or in one case a club's tax assessment will increase from \$444 in 1981 to over \$2,000 in 1982.

As a third argument, I would ask the House to consider the effect a tax exemption would have on the growth and development of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Ontario. As such, I wish to point out that we are indeed discussing an economic issue. This is a point I would really like to emphasize with the members of the House. I think I have introduced here something that is indeed an economic issue.

The pressures on the Boys and Girls Club of Brantford increased proportionately to the unemployment and layoff problems experienced in my community in the last year. Their sources of revenue did not increase to the same extent as the pressures brought to bear on this inner-city organization trying to help people who are disadvantaged in so very many different ways. It is indeed an economic issue. We have the power to extend valuable and timely support to an organization that services many of our province's most disadvantaged citizens.

I take little satisfaction in pointing out that the March unemployment rate among young adults in Ontario was 17.3 per cent. That is one per cent below the Canadian average, but none the less I am sure unacceptable to any member of this House. Equally distressing, the unemployment rate among youths 15 to 19 years of age was 20.5 per cent. In 22 communities these people are getting tangible help, counselling and assistance from a voluntary organization, that being a member club of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Ontario. Statistics such as these underscore the difficult economic times being experienced by Ontario, Canada and, indeed, the industrialized world. As the member for an industrial city like Brantford, I feel a particularly deep concern for young labourers at present unable to find work.

Through my involvement with the Ontario youth secretariat I am also acutely aware of how valuable direction and guidance can be for youths seeking first employment. For this reason alone I urge members to support property tax exemptions for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Ontario. I ask members to recognize that this is a positive, constructive and reasonable move

which could lead to legislation to increase the visibility, the role and the viability of these clubs.

Although I wish to reserve a couple of minutes to reply to any possible questions or problems that may arise in the debate, I would like to summarize briefly the argument I am making. The resolution I have brought before the House concerns the acknowledgement and recognition by us of an organization in Ontario which selflessly contributes to the growth and development of youngsters in the province. I have described the objectives of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Ontario, their structure and their record. I have also attempted to explain that for reasons of equity, fairness and common sense, the 22 clubs operating in Ontario should not have to bear the burden of property tax.

I recognize that honourable members may now assess the validity of this argument and consider the evidence I have put forward. However, I trust they have been struck by the profound integrity of the organization, as I have been. Today we have the opportunity to give these clubs added strength and renewed purpose. In unity, the House can deliver a message to the clubs and to the youngsters of the province: We do believe in the next generation and we are doing something about it.

Mr. J. A. Reed: Mr. Speaker, I rise in the name of equity to support this resolution this afternoon. I do so as one who has been actively and continuously involved in youth work, since I was a participant myself until the time I was elected to this Legislature. The involvement of my family in youth work goes back very many years. I think it is appropriate to put on the record, for the sake of those Kiwanians who are here this afternoon that my father, the late Egbert C. Reed, was the founder of the Boys K Club.

3:40 p.m.

[Applause]

The Deputy Speaker: Order, I might remind all guests in the gallery that only members are allowed to participate in any kind of verbal or other acknowledgement in the chamber.

Mr. J. A. Reed: But, Mr. Speaker, it is exciting. I am sure the Speaker will allow a little latitude.

But as history goes, with his efforts and the money put forward by the late T. P. Loblaw, the Boys K Club became a very successful institution unto itself. He was also involved in the Griffintown boys club in Montreal and later

with the Newsboys Welfare Fund here in the city, so the concern for youth runs long and deep.

It would be easy in this debate to simply engage in a diatribe of apple pie and motherhood, but I also think it is appropriate to provoke some thought in this debate so that we actually understand what it is we are engaged in.

I am concerned that youth organizations in this province and in this country continue to be able to operate at arm's length from government. I am sure all of those youth workers who are here today will agree with that. I am concerned that whatever encouragement we as government give to youth organizations it always be understood it will be in an arm's-length situation so there is never any possibility in the future for any political coercion or connection.

I say that with reference to the extreme other side. For instance, in a country like East Germany the government supports the youth movement to the hilt. It supplies everything. It has adopted what were formerly excellent programs—in that case programs written and constituted by the late Baden-Powell, the Boy Scouts movement—and has turned them into a medium for indoctrination. It seems to me we must always be on our guard that does not happen.

We could speak of another area in the Second World War in Nazi Germany where the Boy Scouts movement was outlawed and Hitler Youth was substituted.

I think the record should show our concern as legislators that whatever we do and however we progress in our support for youth and youth work and those volunteers who dedicate their time and talent, that should always be kept in the back of our minds.

There is one other area about which I think we should be concerned—that is, to what extent government should become involved in the expectations of youth and youth movements. It seems to me some of the basic tenets of youth organizations are to inculcate through that experience self-reliance, the ability to become a self-starter, the ability to gain self-confidence and to become a good citizen.

It always poses something of a concern that if government becomes too deeply involved some of those very core areas of the programs that are being run may be at least diluted if there is too much assumption that the Big Brother of government might become increasingly involved.

I would like to say a word about the work the Boys and Girls Clubs of Ontario do. As we learned today, since 1947 there are now 22 boys

and girls clubs. They work in municipal areas of the province that sometimes are not as well served by organizations such as scouting which perhaps require somewhat more in terms of individual resources.

I think it is fair as well to pay tribute to the most important element in the success of youth programs and that is the volunteer leadership which continues on a sustaining basis; leadership which is always scarce, leadership which is dedicated and self-sacrificing, leadership which never stops to think about itself but always has those boys and girls foremost in mind.

We in government can acknowledge the great work that leadership is doing and hope that through this resolution and the profile it is receiving it will perhaps inspire others to take a harder look at the boys and girls clubs and other youth organizations and give something of their time and talent to the future of our youth, which is our greatest resource in this province and in this country.

Mr. Breaugh: Mr. Speaker, I want to rise in support of the resolution before the House this afternoon. I am reasonably pleased to do that, but I must say I would have been much happier and much more pleased to rise in support of the other option the honourable member had. That was to introduce a private bill on this matter, which would have had the wonderful ability of actually accomplishing something.

While I am happy to support the resolution as an expression of the opinion of this House, I also have to recognize it is not going to do anybody, anywhere, in any boys and girls clubs in Ontario any good. It is true they can take this fine resolution back, frame it and tack it on the wall, but it is not going to relieve them of any property taxes, it is not going to provide a penny in their coffers and it really is not going to tell them much more than what I am sure they already knew when they came in here today; that is, that most members in this House have some experience with clubs and associations along these lines that work with young people.

Almost all of us have some experience in working with those associations and I do not think there is a member in here who would be dumb enough to say he is against helping young people. I am a little at a loss then to understand why the member chose to provide us with a resolution as opposed to a bill. I dare say a private bill on this matter this afternoon would have gone through with unanimous consent from all three parties and would have added itself to that illustrious group of two private

member's bills which have actually been passed by this government.

I want to point out the other aspect of this, as someone who worked on a municipal council for a lengthy period. This matter poses problems to municipalities. I know in my own municipality we always had difficulties, coming around to the argument each time we went through the budget every year as to whether a grant was given in lieu of taxes or whether we tried to exempt taxes. Then we looked across Ontario at all the organizations which had private bills, got grants, were exempt by statute, were exempt by policy, and got a grant each and every year through the municipal budget.

There is a dog's breakfast out there. If we are looking for areas where we might bring in further legislation, let me suggest to the government that it might want to bring in a piece of legislation which would finally provide across Ontario some reasonable redress for organizations which are not provincially funded and which do not have gobs of money coming out of their ears and which do, like these organizations, provide us with an extremely valuable service, and at the same time deal with the problems that municipalities have.

3:50 p.m.

While it is nice on a municipal council to provide a grant in lieu of taxes, for example, or to provide some mechanism whereby these organizations are exempt from paying municipal property taxes, one also has to balance the books at some point. That means organizations such as these, which by and large might be classified as doing some form of social work, are being put on a municipal tax base, which was not the original purpose of a municipal tax base. So it does cause a problem.

I listened with some concern to previous members who bragged that there was very little, if any, government involvement. It is true. The old jackboot of the provincial government does not even have a tippytoe in the funding of this kind of operation. In my municipality, as in many, most of the youth organizations are heavily dependent on charitable donations, and most of that money comes to them either through private donations or through organizations like the United Way.

There is no question in my mind, and it has been recognized by those who worked on the United Way campaign this year, that in a municipality which is looking at 12,000 people who are unemployed now, and more to come later in the summer, United Way campaigns this

year are going to have problems they have not been facing in a lot of cities for quite some time. People who would normally want to donate regularly to private charity through the United Way or some other organization are not going to have any disposable income to do that.

While I share some concern that there always would be some room left for volunteers to provide assistance and for organizations to grow up, like Boys and Girls Clubs of Ontario, in a totally independent way, I also have to recognize that one has to fund them one way or the other. It would be nice if they had some assurance that there were some recognized and common bases for funding across the province so they would not be worried about an economic downturn such as we are now experiencing, which increases the need for this kind of work in every community across the province. There is the irony that the need increases, dramatically in some instances, but the sources of funding shrivel. That becomes an extremely serious problem.

If one could see the government rushing in with some amounts of money for it, if one saw that it was as committed to this kind of investment in human beings, sometimes very young human beings, as it was to out-of-province oil companies, we might then be able to say we are sharing a cost arrangement and we expect the private sector to provide operational funds.

We could be saying that the province will not punish the municipalities but will provide some grant in lieu of taxation, so that for each and every one of these organizations, in every city in the province and all of the towns and villages where there are also organizations active in this field, in all of those places there is fairness. We are not trying to load on to a municipal property tax base, through the back door, more and more social expenditure. We have accounted for that, so that there is fairness and some measure of uniformity. I am not dogmatic about uniformity. There ought to be some fairness between one organization in one community which does not pay any property tax at all and another in another community that has to pay full tilt. There is a need.

I would have preferred to see a private bill because that would have given the people who came here this afternoon, and who spoke to the members during the noon hour, something to go home with other than a piece of paper. It would have given them a commitment on the part of all members here to actually provide the legislation which would accomplish what is being asked for

in the resolution. It would have been a reasonable thing to go along with that, to provide some recognition that in this particular year these organizations are going to pay the price for the economic downturn. Their resources will be less and the demands for their services will be greater. I would have liked to have seen something of a positive nature in that regard.

Finally, I would have been happier if we had been looking at something which addressed itself to the problem on a slightly larger scale. Initially, I said I am happy to support the resolution, and I am. I am just as significantly happy as when I send a good friend a Christmas card. It is an expression of concern and of support. It shows that I thought of them, but it does not do much more for them. Frankly, I think the children who are served by these organizations, the people who work in these organizations and the people who volunteer their time to make the organizations function well, deserve much more this afternoon than a simple expression of concern. I am by no means opposed to doing that.

I had the opportunity at noon to spend about 10 minutes in the committee, between one committee and my office, to kind of drop in and listen to part of their presentation. It was an impressive one, and the room was full of people I recognized from my own community and from other communities around the province.

They are dedicated and committed to this kind of work and they should be supported in every way possible. But I do find it is with some reluctance that I look at a resolution this afternoon that provides them with very minimal support.

It does not do anything for them when the opportunity clearly is there. Since we have heard from all three caucuses, I thought we would have had unanimous consent this afternoon for a private bill which would have done something for them in a very difficult time, which would have provided something that is not just an expression of concern but something which is real and concrete and helps both the organization and the children it serves.

Mr. Dean: Mr. Speaker, I should like to join in the debate by following up on my colleagues' comments and with some brief comments of my own, particularly about the programs and activities of a specific boys and girls club in the area from which I come.

This is the Hamilton East Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club, which is in the riding of Hamilton East represented by our colleague, Mr. Mac-

kenzie. It is an outstanding example of this kind of community service, reaching beyond the borders of political divisions.

The Hamilton East club is located in a residential area near Hamilton's industrial heart. More than 1,600 youngsters are card carrying members of the club and a further 1,500 drop in from time to time for athletic and recreational activities. Most of these young people come from the immediate area where the need is the greatest although some of the boys and girls come from farther away to take advantage of the excellent club programs.

Like most clubs in Ontario, the Hamilton East chapter charges a nominal membership fee of \$2 a year, but it is widely known that if, for any reason, a boy or girl can not meet that fee, it is waived.

The history of the Hamilton East club reflects the dedication of volunteers to serve this community the same way they do throughout the other 21 areas of the province. The first club was founded in 1940, when some of us were just about finished high school and others were not even born. They met in the basement of a school. After the war, they bought a half of what was known in those days as an army H hut and set it up on property nearby, having acquired it from the army trade school.

This wooden building could be a symbol of what was going on. It was temporary in the nature of its construction; it was permanent in the nature of the community's commitment, especially the club's, to provide a place where children could find a range of activities to keep them busy and happy.

After operating out of this structure for several years, the Hamilton East club secured a site on Ellis Avenue in 1961 from the city of Hamilton and carried out a very successful fund-raising drive to erect the present club. Even with this new facility, the club was swamped with applications for programs, as it has been ever since. Interestingly, during the mid-50s girls were permitted to join the club for activities one day a week. On that day, boys were not supposed to be there. That is quite a contrast to today when everything that goes on is completely co-educational.

Indeed, the Hamilton East club, open from seven in the morning until 11 at night six days a week, is an example of one that is a thriving operation. It attracts an average of 500 youngsters each day and without ever having used any advertising as such, attendance at the club grows steadily. In many cases, it is serving a

third generation of youngsters. There are more than 100 volunteers and five full-time staff to co-ordinate and supervise the programs.

4 p.m.

In 1982 the club will be funded by \$50,000 from the city. It is also informally exempt from paying property tax, one of the few organizations that is exempt by the action of the city. In addition to a grant from the United Way of about a quarter of its revenues, the club generates additional funds through private donations. This is no doubt a result of the astonishing number of additional community activities in which it is involved. In some cases, it is able to secure some rental from groups, union associations and other private individuals who want to take advantage of the recreational facilities in off-hours when the children are not using them.

In addition to that purely recreational and social aspect, the Hamilton East club has other programs. It administers a day care facility operating out of its own building and provides households in the area, many of which are single parent households, with the assurance that children are being responsibly cared for in the absence of adults, which is often necessitated by the need to earn a living.

A second program the club is involved in is the managing of a group home for young adults. This was launched three years ago and is managed by the club through the supervision of a family residing on the premises. Like so many other group homes, it provides an alternative to institutional care, a stable environment for six or seven teenagers, and encourages them to develop responsibility and maturity while they continue their high school work.

The final example I wish to mention of the club's community involvement is its leadership in a nonprofit housing venture for residents of the inner city. The directors of the club became increasingly aware in years past that many problems experienced by youngsters were a result of poor housing accommodation because of a money crunch, unsatisfactory buildings or whatever. In co-operation with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp., it has recognized the serious impact on young people when a family cannot afford adequate housing, and it is doing something about it.

I will conclude my remarks with two observations on the general nature and role of this club, which is certainly a bell-wether for other clubs around the province. First, the range of the club's services to the community is astounding and inspiring. It has built on its contribution to

youngsters in the area and now operates programs for individuals of all ages, interests and backgrounds, from preschool to seniors, from swimming to crafts, from drama to baseball.

Second and more important, I wish to underline how the club's operation is just a reflection of similar programs throughout Ontario. As I mentioned before there are 22 clubs throughout different areas of the province providing a very similar quality of service.

The resolution we are debating will help the Boys and Girls Clubs of Ontario to devote more of their precious resources to one purpose, to help our young people to grow into responsible, helpful adults. I hope all members will support it.

Mr. Eakins: Mr. Speaker, I wish to speak very briefly, but I do appreciate the opportunity to rise and associate myself with the honourable member's resolution and to express my appreciation to him for introducing it. It is not necessary to speak at length on this because I think the member has given a great deal of background on the work of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Ontario, the number of people involved and the work they are doing.

I am pleased to associate myself with the resolution because I had an opportunity to serve for a term on the board of Kawartha Youth Inc. in the town of Lindsay. I wish through this debate to pay tribute to all who have served and are serving in a volunteer way to assist the operation of Kawartha Youth in that town.

There is a need for such clubs in the smaller communities and not just the larger urban areas. We often think these clubs are more or less a part of a large urban community but, with our lifestyle today and with what is happening in our communities, there is a need for such operations and such a volunteer spirit to help young people in our communities, regardless of their size.

I am pleased to say that, while I am not sure if Lindsay is the smallest community to be involved in Kawartha Youth, we certainly must rank high as one of the most active communities. The story of Kawartha Youth is one I am sure all members of this Legislature and all citizens of Ontario would be proud of.

I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the work of Bob Steffler who was at the meeting at noon hour. He is one who has given great service to Kawartha Youth in Lindsay until just recently. I am sure it is because of his excellent work over a number of years that he

has now accepted a position in the national office. It speaks well not only of his work in the Lindsay club but also of his ability as a director. He has been a great citizen in that town. The people there are going to miss him very much and I know his heart will still be with the young people he has served and they will not forget him. Bob Steffler and Norm Cooper before him deserve a great deal of credit.

I recall the early days in the formation of that club. There was a need within the community. Some young people came together in a small way to do something for those who needed assistance in counselling and other service. Out of that grew a total community involvement and spirit which formed the Kawartha Youth Inc. I pay tribute to the generous support of the various churches in that community, all of the service clubs, and certainly the town of Lindsay. They have played their part in helping this organization to get off the ground and be maintained.

I would point out to the members we must be careful not to discourage the volunteer spirit behind such clubs by necessarily looking for total funding. I think this would be not in line with the operation of such a club and I suppose this would never happen. Kawartha Youth in Lindsay, which I am proud to say raised well over 50 per cent of its funding needs, is an example of helping young people who need this assistance. The young people have also helped the community as a result of their involvement with Kawartha Youth. It is a two-way street. They have been helped and they have helped the community.

It is an organization, an association of boys and girls clubs across this province, that deserves support and encouragement. I express my appreciation to the member for Brantford for introducing the resolution. I support it and I am sure my colleagues will support it. I hope all members of the House will lend their support.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, I also rise in support of the motion brought forward by the member for Brantford.

Mr. Di Santo: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: This is a very interesting debate but I do not think we have a quorum.

Mr. Speaker ordered the bells to be rung.

4:13 p.m.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): The honourable member for Scarborough West may continue.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure whether or not I should thank the member for Downsview (Mr. Di Santo) for bringing me an audience because as soon as I start I know the audience will start to disappear again.

The Acting Speaker: Take advantage of it; you have the floor.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: In case those members are not aware of what is on the Order Paper today, I am rising to support the resolution brought forward by the member for Brantford to provide municipal tax exemption for the boys and girls clubs of the province.

I do this for many reasons. One is that if there had been these kinds of organizations where I was raised, my misspent youth might not have turned me into the kind of member the members see before them today.

Second, I have seen in this House, day in and day out, the need for boys-and-girls-club-style service for the page-boys and page-girls here. They are becoming more unruly as each session goes on. They must be picking it up from the members. It is an awful thing.

As the members can tell, both of those things were said with tongue in cheek.

Mr. Nixon: The member has to say that or the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) gets all worked up.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I know. I am not advocating that we bring back the strap. I want to make that very clear at this point.

Mr. Stokes: She is very sensitive to everything that is said in here and insensitive to the needs out there.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: A good interjection, after all.

I did want to question the member for Brantford—

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member is not trying to make any aspersions about the pages in any way. That was humour that was being offered, I assume.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: A good point, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Breagh: Quick.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Very quick.

I wanted to ask the member for Brantford why he brought it in as a resolution. It seems to me a very strange approach to take in this kind of matter where there is an overall acceptance by all members of the House that assistance to Boys and Girls Clubs of Ontario is a good thing.

I never would impute motive, but I heard a rumour that one of the difficulties was that he was not being invited out to lunch very much recently and this was one means of guaranteeing a number of people to go out with at lunchtime. I have no idea if that is true.

My not attending the lunch today was by no means a statement about my friendship with Mario Ferri, the director of the West Scarborough Boys and Girls Club. I might have been wrong but I thought there might have been just a tinge of partisan attempt to glorify a situation, to make it seem as if only the Tories were in favour of this kind of assistance and that I did not really wish to participate.

I have been involved with the West Scarborough Boys and Girls Club, and in my view property tax exemption is not their major need, although I welcome this initiative. I would have welcomed more a bill that might have brought in legislation which would assist them directly now rather than just a statement of good intentions, which is what a resolution is.

My feeling is that boys and girls clubs need stabilized funding. I am not talking about total government funding, but they need a stabilized funding base if they are going to provide the kinds of services they have been. I do not think we can talk, as one of the members of the Liberal Party did, about a total arm's length kind of situation with boys and girls clubs.

My God, right now they are involved in the grantsmanship they all have to go through just to meet their operating budgets. They participated in Experience '77, '78, '79, '81—and hopefully in '82, God knows—to get the grants in order to get money for programming during the summers. They also get money from federal programs for programming during the summers.

They are involved with government support. It just happens to be ad hoc and totally inadequate now, which means that directors of boys and girls clubs and their staffs spend so much time fund-raising that they do not have enough time to concentrate on the programs which should be their main concern.

I have been involved in an advisory capacity in terms of fund-raising for my boys and girls club and I have also been involved in a more practical way. I participated for two years in a row in a program which takes place every December to make up for funding shortfalls, in order to make sure the staff are paid. The West Scarborough Boys and Girls Club holds a

swimathon, and for two years in a row I swam 50 lengths. Members will be proud to know that. I can see the member for Grey (Mr. McKessock) is proud to know it, as he is yawning as I speak. I swam 50 lengths to raise some money for that need.

Last year I was unable to do it. I happened to be doing lengths of the province instead, and was unable to make it when I would have liked to have been there to assist the club. That points out a terrible problem. If just to meet their regular staffing needs, the payments to their staff, they have to hold a swimathon at the end of each year and hope it has raised enough to maintain that staff at the year's end, something is wrong with the funding of that institution. I would suggest that a municipal tax break is not going to be sufficient to deal with it.

I had a picture I wanted to provide to Hansard of myself diving into the pool at the West Scarborough Boys and Girls Club—a little overweight I might say—with the mayor of Scarborough shooting off a gun in another direction. However my assistant told me that it might breach the obscenity laws of the province if I were to introduce it, and if not, it would definitely breach anybody's sense of common decency.

Let me praise the work of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Ontario, their counselling and the recreational programming. I think it is admirable. I have found that they operate very well in co-operation with other groups in my community. They do work in an inner city area in my riding where there are many problems and many needs of people in a fair degree of poverty.

The people there do not have the capacity to provide the kinds of services for their children that middle class people like ourselves perhaps take for granted. They work very closely with Mennonites in my area who work in inner city programming. They work very closely with the board of education and with other groups. I appreciate the work they have done in the Oak Ridges community and Regent Heights community in my riding. Their volunteer boards do sterling work, as do the many volunteers who assist the staff in that facility.

4:20 p.m.

If I could just talk to the notion of municipal tax equity for a second, it is true that Scouts and Girl Guides receive that kind of assistance, but I would point out to the member for Brantford that day care centres are now being taxed municipally in this province and the Minister of

Revenue (Mr. Ashe) thinks that is fine. If we are talking about equity, I think we should be looking at other kinds of groups that could use this kind of break as well, not just the Boys and Girls Clubs of Ontario. We should also look at senior citizens of this province who are paying inordinate amounts of property tax to pay for education. That is the kind of thing we should perhaps be looking at in property tax if we are looking at that kind of exemption principle.

The Boys and Girls Clubs of Ontario are now relying a great deal on municipal grants and United Way grants. Those are not going to be adequate in the next little while because municipal governments are feeling the crunch of cutbacks even more severely than we are at this level. The United Way is most certainly feeling that crunch. What they need is some kind of guaranteed base from the provincial government. They would still do their fund-raising, still go after local support from community organizations and their own fund-raising approaches, but they need that base and the province should be providing that base to them.

Although I support this notion of giving extra assistance to this organization, as the critic for ComSoc looking at priorities in this province, I do not think anyone in the Boys and Girls Clubs of Ontario would disagree that we have children's mental health centres where children have been waiting a year for service because of lack of funding and we have day care needs that are not being met anywhere. People are losing their jobs because there is no 24-hour day care provided in the province. When I look at the poverty of pensioners and at people on general welfare I say, "My God, maybe we should be looking at other priorities."

If I can get one dig in at the member for Brantford, he comes from a riding that has been sorely hit by the deindustrialization of this province. We get up on these rotations to do a private members' bill once a year or once every two years if we are lucky. I am surprised that, when the member could speak directly to the economic needs of his municipality, he did not at least come up with a practical bill to give something specific and hard to these people, instead of a nebulous resolution of support.

Mr. McLean: Mr. Speaker, I join in this debate with pleasure and pride. I will only speak briefly to emphasize my strong support for the adoption of the resolution of the member for Brantford. Today this House will be doing a great service to the boys and girls of Ontario and to youngsters throughout the province by taking

this significant and appropriate step. It is a pleasure to see the interest shown in this resolution by the people here today. It is enlightening to learn a lot of people are concerned about the youth of the province. I agree with the quorum call suggested by the member for Downsview, but I wonder why he did not stay to hear the debate on the resolution. Perhaps he called it so he could get out for a while.

I would like to focus my comments on the history and growth of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Ontario, and Canada. I do so, not only to enlighten and inform members of the constructive work being done, but also as a reminder to the House of the sizeable contributions volunteer organizations make in the growth and development of the youth of our province. As we move into the 1980s we do so with the recognition that seldom in our history have the problems and challenges of our society's youth been of greater concern to ourselves and to governments alike.

We are often reminded that today's only constant is change. We must not fail to remember that the youth of our society is especially prone to these difficulties of adjustment. In their personal lives at school and play today's youth profit immensely from the same direction and guidance that characterized the adolescence stage in the lives of many of us. It is therefore with great admiration that I remind members of the beginnings of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada. The clubs have been a focus of guidance and direction for youngsters of all ages and backgrounds since 1868.

The first club, launched in Montreal, provided much the brand of athletic and recreational activities that is their trademark today. In 1900, the name Boys Club was coined for a youth centre in Saint John, New Brunswick. This marked the organizational beginning of the clubs in eastern Canada and the Maritimes. In 1905, the Griffintown Boys Club of Montreal was the first to establish itself in a permanent building. The first Boys Club in Toronto opened at the conclusion of the First World War. By 1924 there were nine clubs in six cities across Canada.

Five years later the Boys Club Federation of Canada was formed, providing the clubs with a nation-wide network of human and technical resources with which to expand. The organization grew to 30 clubs in 10 communities by the end of the Second World War, with growth concentrated in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver. This was also the period during which

the Kiwanians became involved in the operations of many clubs, a proud and honourable collaboration that exists to this day.

Although each new boys club was being developed along lines most suitable to the community concerned, the national organization developed a constitution of its own in 1949. The constitution helped administer increasing numbers of clubs during the 1950s. For example, in 1952, there were 40 clubs; in 1954 there were 46; in 1956 there were 56 and by the end of 1958 there were 69 clubs in 38 communities from coast to coast. This expansion has continued to the present with more than 100 clubs now in operation. In 1976, the organization adopted its present name, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada. Today as a result, no child is refused membership for any reason whatsoever.

I will conclude my remarks by pointing out that 50,000 youngsters throughout Canada are served by boys and girls clubs—16,000 of them in Ontario. As well, 7,000 volunteers nationwide ensure a continuous flow of programs and activities.

With astonishing figures such as these I think it is clear these clubs are making a sizable and unique contribution to the social fabric of our country. Perhaps the historical perspective I have offered this afternoon will further inform members of the worthy, significant strides being made by the boys and girls clubs to youth development in Ontario, Canada and indeed nations all over the world.

I compliment the member for Brantford for introducing this resolution and I urge every member to support it.

4:30 p.m.

The Acting Speaker: The member for Kent-Elgin has four minutes.

Mr. McGuigan: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to rise in support of this resolution. I join in all the very complimentary remarks on matters of history that other members have expressed in regard to boys and girls clubs.

However, as others have mentioned, I wish the member had brought in a bill and specifically addressed it as an amendment to the Municipal Act or as an act by itself that would have addressed the problem we have in so many areas of senior citizens clubs, farmers clubs and youth clubs throughout the province.

I am speaking especially to those in rural areas who, I believe, in many cases do not benefit from the charitable operations that take place in the larger cities. The money that is

raised by sophisticated programs tends to go to larger centres. I believe that is true also of Wintario. I am grateful for the moneys that have come to my riding, especially to arenas, but these tend to be large-scale operations and they do not get to the back roads where there is a particular problem that I have had brought to my attention. I beg the indulgence of the House to mention this.

When the school system changed from the small, rural public schools to centralized schools, many of the old school houses were bought by community groups, often by farmers clubs. Those are expensive buildings to maintain and especially to heat in this day of high energy costs. These people have gone ahead with programs looking after the youth in the area and catering to the older people to develop a sense of community. That sense of community is becoming a greater problem as our farm population drops and as more parts of our society are centralized in the larger cities.

A number of these school houses—I think there are five in my township of Harwich—went for a good many years without being taxed. Perhaps they should have been taxed, but they were overlooked. This past year, with the reassessment under section 86, they have now been brought in to pay taxes ranging from \$250 to \$1,100. That, of course, was from a base of zero.

I bring that to the attention of the House. What we really need is a resolution of this problem so that we can have a uniform system across Ontario whereby various worthy organizations are granted a certain amount of tax relief. I know that at present under the Municipal Act they can give grants in lieu of tax relief. However, this puts quite a burden on councilors to decide what is worthy and what is not. It lacks uniformity across this province.

In the moment I have left, I would like to read from a letter from the Guilds Hall Committee in the township of Harwich. I am reading from the body of it, "Since the hall is used mainly for use in community activities which are nonprofit and all money raised for maintenance and upkeep is donated by community members, this taxation is an extra burden for the people who are already supporting this hall."

I will not take up any more time. I support the resolution, and I join with other members in challenging the government to go further and bring in a meaningful piece of legislation to correct this problem.

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Speaker, I am sorry indeed that my friend the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) will not have an opportunity to join in the debate but, for the record, I think his long involvement in the boys and girls club movement is well known. Indeed, he has served as a board member in his riding.

I thank all honourable members for supporting the resolution. I am pleased indeed that it appears it will pass the House unanimously.

I wish to address a few of the specific questions raised by the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) and the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) as to why I brought in a resolution as opposed to a bill. Some of the comments made by the member for Oshawa partly answered that very question.

There is already a hotchpotch of private bills, grants in lieu, legal and informal arrangements, between a myriad of different organizations and their municipalities as to whether part, all or none of the property tax would be paid. My feeling was that to bring in a bill would just exacerbate that problem.

Rather than doing that, I met with the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Ashe) several weeks ago. As a result, I hope the spirit of this resolution may be incorporated in some broader piece of legislation at such time as the minister comes to amend the Assessment Act. He assures me that will not be too far in the future. That is part of the rationale.

Members today have spoken in terms of how it was obvious the resolution would pass unanimously and asked why I did not bring in a bill so it would join the select company of the two bills that have passed this Legislature in private members' hour.

Frankly, I had no way of knowing until today that all three caucuses would support the resolution, let alone a bill. On reflection, a member of the caucus of the party opposite told me two weeks ago that he would be speaking in opposition to the bill, and it is really only today that I figured out he must have been joking. But there it is anyway.

I am very pleased that all members appear to be in support of the bill. The member for Scarborough West also questioned whether I should have brought in a resolution or a bill that, in a broader fashion, addressed the economic situation in my riding.

In response, in the few moments that remain, I would say that I work in my riding, as all members do in theirs, on a day-to-day basis on dozens of different questions and issues. In my

riding they are predominantly economic. I feel that our ongoing work on these efforts, and indeed the effort all of the elected representatives in the city of Brantford put into obtaining further aid from the federal government and the province to try to start alleviating the situation in my riding, is more meaningful than perhaps expending a ballot item on it.

When members do work diligently on these questions in their ridings on a day-to-day basis, they can be allowed during private members' hour to indulge a desire to do something very specific. The very specific problem I was faced with was the desire of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Ontario—not just the club in my riding but the organization across the province—that we do something to help them. They are very much part of the response to the economic difficulties in which we now find ourselves. Their work and their pressures did increase in my riding directly in proportion to the unemployment situation.

While it may not be the shotgun approach, and it may not be the broadest resolution that has ever been brought into the House, I would like to think it is specific, positive and helpful. I am very glad that members agree with me and will be supporting the resolution.

PLANT LAYOFFS OR SHUTDOWNS

Mr. Sweeney moved, seconded by Mr. Newman, resolution 6:

That in the opinion of this House, and as a result of the heightened vulnerability of workers throughout Ontario, the government should introduce amendments to the Employment Standards Act and the Ontario Business Corporations Act to create, in specified cases, an obligation upon an employer considering worker layoffs or plant shutdowns to consult with the employees prior to the tentative decision to lay off workers or shut down the plant.

4:40 p.m.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, in proposing this resolution, I want to indicate my full appreciation of the significant departure it represents from current practice by both management and labour in Ontario.

Let me also suggest that the present adversarial or confrontation approach, which seems to have met the needs of both management and labour in this jurisdiction, no longer works in Ontario. Clearly, the time has come for a change. My resolution is intended to be the edge of that change and by no means the complete answer.

I sincerely hope that we can have a fruitful

dialogue in this assembly this afternoon on the implications of what I am proposing and that the government will see fit to approach both labour and management in Ontario to find ways to implement the best part of our discussion this afternoon.

While my proposal deals directly with labour-management relations in a near-crisis situation, namely, an impending layoff or closure, it is not intended to stop there. I hope that the procedures we debate this afternoon will lead to a much longer-term resolution of the present confrontational type of conflict between management and labour and that we will find ways in both the short and long terms to resolve some of the difficulties.

In other words, I am suggesting this afternoon that the time has come for labour and management to recognize that they can no longer operate in isolation from one another. Both the short-term and long-term health of the business enterprises in which they are involved requires their mutual co-operation.

This afternoon I am saying clearly to management that their responsibility is not just to stockholders and to making a profit; they also have a responsibility to their workers and to the community in which their plant operates. I recognize that this is a radical departure from the current thinking of the majority of business operations in this province. Some, however, have already moved in this direction, and we will talk about them shortly.

I am also saying clearly to labour that their responsibility can be no longer just the needs of their members; they too must consider and contribute towards the continuing health of the enterprise in which they work. In difficult times such as right now, management must be prepared to accept lower profits; labour must be prepared to participate in the necessary discussions for the economic health and the long-term future of the enterprise.

In my own riding the president of Budd Automotive, up until recently the largest employer, has indicated publicly on several occasions that management can no longer make decisions by itself which affect that enterprise.

The president of Sutherland-Schultz, a very large electrical and electronics contractor, has structured his business in such a way that his employees make an input on a continual basis into the direction that business is going.

The recent agreement in the United States between Ford and the United Auto Workers provides for a much greater degree of sharing

with labour information upon which business decisions are made.

Firestone in Hamilton recently put into place a co-operative plan with its employees called Impro Share, by which both sides benefit from improvement.

The high-technology industries around Ottawa have prospered by allowing employees considerable freedom to make on-the-spot decisions as to how to proceed with the job at hand.

Such businesses as these are showing the way. Granted, they are few. Now is the time for this Legislature to provide the opportunity and the responsibility for other businesses to proceed as well.

My proposal to begin this process is to make it an obligation on businesses to consult with their employees before the decision is made to institute layoffs or closures. Current legislation requires advance notice after the decision is made and does not provide for employee input regarding possible alternatives.

My proposal recognizes that some layoffs and closures may be unavoidable. It does, however, provide the opportunity for employees, who sometimes know the production end of the business even better than management, to propose alternatives. This may include such things as different production procedures, different production timetables, different work schedules or different materials handling. It does give employees the opportunity to take part in deciding their own future as well as that of the business in which they are engaged.

If necessity is the mother of invention, then the potential loss of livelihood will certainly stimulate many employees to bring forward ideas that otherwise might have lain dormant.

If one wants to see clear evidence of the potential success of this approach, let us look at other jurisdictions that currently practice it.

In West Germany since 1972 and in Sweden since 1974, countries whose economies and labour management relations are much better than ours, legislation such as I am proposing is already in place and is working well.

In both countries, workers are informed in advance of possible cutbacks and are able to participate in the decision as to how they are to proceed. Employees are given full access to the corporate data on which the decisions are being based.

It is interesting to note the relationship between the branch plant and the home plant in the case of SKF Canada Ltd. in Scarborough, which was closed in 1981.

At the home base in Sweden, legislation required labour consultation, and nobody lost his or her job in that company-wide reorganization. In Ontario, where no such legislation exists, 310 workers lost their jobs.

It is also interesting to note that subsequent information reveals that SKF probably closed the wrong plant in its international organization. Had the employees in Ontario had access to some of that information and the opportunity to make an input, it is entirely possible that a different decision would have been reached and those 310 people would not have lost their jobs. Swedish workers were protected and Ontario workers lost their jobs.

During our committee hearings on layoffs and plant closures, we heard the case of Outboard Marine Corp. of Canada Ltd. in Peterborough, a company that had been profitable. Because the parent plant in the United States had some problems, this plant was closed, with no employee input.

We also heard about Bendix in Essex, which had been profitable for the American branch plant for more than 50 years; but because that particular branch plant had one year of company loss it was also closed. Here, too, the employees had no chance to make an input.

I suggest that legislation such as I am proposing might have made a difference in the decision to close those two plants.

It has been argued that legislation such as this would be seen as too restrictive by some potential investors in Ontario. I would have to say that any investor or parent plant that planned to invest in Ontario and based its decisions in that way is probably a plant we do not want here anyway.

The time has surely come when we in Ontario, the members of the Legislature and all the people of Ontario, clearly say that we place people above machines and that those who would build in Ontario should do so with their employees and not on the backs of their employees.

4:50 p.m.

It is now well known how well and how closely Japanese labour and management work together for the good of their enterprise. Their outstanding economic example and success is something that we all look to with envy.

While we cannot transfer their history and their culture to our jurisdiction, we surely can learn something about the attitudes between labour and management and the way in which they co-operate with one another.

Our backgrounds may be different, but our needs are very similar. We must adapt or, I am afraid, like the dinosaurs, we are going to perish here in this jurisdiction.

In proposing this particular resolution, my assistants contacted the Ontario Federation of Labour, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business and the Canadian Manufacturers' Association for their reactions.

I must say that in all cases the reaction was favourable with respect to the principle involved. In each case, however, whether it was the Ontario Federation of Labour or the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, there was some concern expressed about the specifics of implementation.

It is precisely for that reason that I have put this in the form of a resolution: so that all of those who would be subject to the legislation that would eventually flow from it would have an opportunity to make an input into the mechanics and the procedures themselves.

The large number of people unemployed in Ontario as a result of layoffs and plant closures represents a wasted potential that we cannot continue. The social unrest that has flowed from unemployment in other jurisdictions, including the riots in England, may be much closer than we imagine.

We need a significant change in attitude by both labour and management in Ontario, if for no other reason than their mutual self-interest, if we hope to weather the economic storms ahead.

We are talking here about a changing attitude. We are asking labour and management in Ontario to sit down and jointly and co-operatively talk out—not just at crisis times, although this particular resolution deals specifically with a crisis time—their mutual self-interest.

The resolution itself, if it were passed by the government and legislation were introduced to change the Employment Standards Act and the Business Corporation Act, would place a requirement on businesses in Ontario—and this is the key—prior to a decision being made for either layoffs or closure, to consult with their workers, with their employees.

They would be required to lay before their workers the problem that the company faces, to lay before them their financial situation, to lay before them their marketing problems and to lay before them perhaps their production problems.

Mr. Wildman: To open their books.

Mr. Sweeney: Yes, to open their books.

Quite frankly, they would be required to say to their employees: "We are both in this. We would like your help in suggesting to us what we might do to solve this particular dilemma."

It is my suggestion that labour and management begin this way, at a time when they are both going to be effective. No employee wants to lose his or her job, and no manager wants to have to close down or to significantly close part of his or her business.

In other words, neither of them want that to happen; so surely this is the time we would make it a requirement in Ontario that consultation would have to take place, significantly in advance of a decision being made and not when it is too late to do anything about it.

From past experience and from hearing the representatives and the witnesses who came before us in the layoffs and plant closure committee, we know that often far in advance, sometimes a year or even longer in advance, the companies knew that they were going to be in trouble; but they were struggling themselves to try and solve that problem, without going to their employees, without going to their workers to bring them in on that decision-making.

Here is what we require: they must bring them in and give them an opportunity to participate. There is no way of knowing at this time the extent to which that would make a difference. We do not know that. But at least we know that in other jurisdictions where it is being done it does make a difference.

What it does is it sets up a whole different climate in terms of the way in which management and labour co-operate with one another. That change in climate is just as important as the legislation I am proposing at this time.

For these reasons I ask for the support of all members of this House.

The Deputy Speaker: I would like to bring to the honourable member's attention that he has four minutes left. Does he want to reserve that time for the end of the debate?

Mr. Sweeney: Yes, thank you.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, I have some little difficulty in containing myself. I am not going to spend very long on the resolution.

In terms of approval of the idea in principle, it is like motherhood. Who could be against it? But I have never seen more of a motherhood joke before this House than the resolution the honourable member has just moved. It is an absolute Mickey Mouse resolution. What does it tell us? It says:

"That in the opinion of this House, and as a result of the heightened vulnerability of workers throughout Ontario, the government should introduce amendments to the Employment Standards Act and the Ontario Business Corporations Act to create, in specified cases"—we do not know what that means, to begin with—"an obligation upon an employer considering worker layoffs or plant shutdowns to consult with the employees prior to the tentative decision to lay off workers or shut down the plant."

By golly, that would give me an awful lot of confidence if I were one of the workers who was going to be involved in a plant shutdown.

What the member fails to realize when he mentions Sweden, West Germany or some of the other countries he talked about is that the workers there start from a much more even position and have some clout and some say in the economic decisions and, indeed, some say in the kind of government planning that goes on.

What have we got in this province? Much of our problem has been in the branch plant area. We have no say whatsoever. The decisions are made outside this province and this country in terms of whether companies will shut down, move or transfer an operation.

I remind members of this House and the member who quoted from the plant shutdowns committee—I am not sure, but I do not think he served on that committee with us—that in the case of Bendix, for example—and I cannot help but use this example again and again, because it so effectively outlines the problem we have—there were still more than 400 employees at the time the company was preparing to shut down.

Bendix was one of the companies we had before our committee. The Canadian president, a chap by the name of Smith, came before the committee and said that in May—I forget the actual date—he got a memo from the head office. I think it was from Milwaukee; it was somewhere in the United States. It gave him two weeks to justify why he should not shut down the Bendix plant in Windsor.

This same Canadian president laid before us the fact that the company had made a profit in 40 out of the 41 years it was in business. It had done a fair amount of modernizing in the plant; it was in good shape. When he took it over less than a year previously, he expected to improve it still further. It had the market, and he expected to make even more money. Mind you, it had made a profit in 40 of its 41 years of operation.

He got two weeks' notice to justify not

shutting the plant down. I give him credit to this day; he was very frank with our committee. He said: "I knew of the nonutilization of part of our plant in the United States. I knew the bottom line was profit."

He was upfront with us. He said: "I knew that we were making a profit and that we had more than 400 workers at work here. I knew that we would have to import those parts, and that would further affect our balance of trade and payment deficit. But I also knew that the Bendix Corp. could make even more profit if the entire production were done in the American plant and if it shut down the plant in Windsor."

Although it was under some pressure, the company made arrangements that were a little better than those some plants made for their workers. But we still lost the 400 jobs. We still lost the production of those parts we now have to import. We still lost the cost to us as a community, to the city of Windsor, and there was not a damn thing we could do.

5 p.m.

That was a branch plant, owned and operated from the outside and with decisions made outside. Even the Canadian president was not prepared to say, "We have some obligation in terms of the cost to these workers in this community." We are operating a branch plant economy in Ontario. What is the suggestion that there should be worker consultation going to do? It is absolutely beyond me.

If it has not gotten through to the member yet that there is a necessity for justification as well as advance notice, and for the government itself to start playing a role in the industrial economy of this province, then we are really naive today.

I cannot help but ask as well, when I see a resolution before this House which is so vague and which has so little meat to it, where were the members of the party he represents in that same committee when I first moved the motion dealing with severance pay? This is where we do end up in this kind of position.

The motion I moved was that severance pay be available for any size plant, from day one. Long before the Tory members, who I knew would oppose or raise objections to that kind of position, it was the Liberal members who said to us: "You are going to kill small businesses. You are going to hurt us. You cannot do that to small businesses." They refused to support that kind of position in the committee.

If ever I have seen a phoney argument it is the one made now with this weak resolution. Maybe the weak resolution is the only way they can try

to recoup some ground. I am not sure. The only way we got the recommendations on severance pay through that committee was by reverting to what was said by my colleague the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick). He said, "Let us see if the Liberals will go so far as to support a motion that says, 'Those that have to give notice, which is over 50;' "at that point they came in.

That is also one of the reasons I sat here in amazement the other day when I heard the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye) get up and say: "What is wrong with this government? Why will it not bring in some lowering of the 50 requirement?" My God, it is because of them that we have it in the doggone legislation in Ontario.

With that performance and record to date, what does this kind of resolution mean? I am sorry to have gotten a little exercised about this situation, but I simply want to point out that government involvement and justification is going to be required. We should be lowering it. Just last week I moved a motion to reduce the 50 requirement and to make it after one year's service. If they now mean what they have been saying, I presume they will support that bill in this House. We will see where they are when we put that up for debate in the House.

I want the member who moved the resolution to know that we have also discussed this with the Ontario Federation of Labour and some of the unions. How can they say we should stop beating our wives? That is their impression of this resolution before this House. One cannot oppose a suggestion that companies should be talking to workers before they lay them off or shut down the plants, but it does not mean a darn thing if one is not going to put some teeth into it and if one is not going to say they have an obligation and a requirement for justification. What are we fooling around for? Is it to try to get some publicity over some of the past positions they have taken in this House? That is really what bothers me about having to get up and say I will vote for the darn thing. It is so patently phoney.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Speaker, while I certainly agree with the motives behind the resolution as explained by its sponsor, frankly, I am perplexed by the form of the motion, given the reasoning that has been put forward by the member. It seems to be a shotgun type of resolution more akin to our socialist friends' approach to the private sector than would come from the Liberal Party.

I think it is interesting to note, as the member

for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio) indicated, the confrontation attitude would surely be visible when the member for Hamilton East rose in the House to speak to the issue. It was apparent that 19th century style of confrontation in the labour-management field is what prevails in this province and has to change.

I agree that consultation and co-operation is the route to go and it is being achieved much more rapidly and with more positive results in other jurisdictions than here. Confrontation is not the route to go. That is why I am surprised that a shotgun approach is being applied to this motion when the philosophy behind it appears to be otherwise. I think the cold, hard facts of the matter are that when there are no goods or services to be bought in the private sector then there is no revenue by which the business enterprise can survive.

I think what is implicit in this resolution is the idea that you cannot lay off or shut down without the approval and consent of the employees. In my mind it raises the spectre of the philosophy espoused by our opposition friends from the days of the select committee on plant shutdowns and employee adjustments, namely that government should take a role in the decision-making process prior to plant closures. That is the socialistic spectre that I see implicit in this resolution. That is why it disturbs me. It is in this type of climate that the business entrepreneur is no longer master in his own house. In my mind this resolution is simply another example of government interference in the marketplace.

For the record, I want to make it clear that in this country there is no government that is more sensitive, more understanding and more responsive than the Conservative government in Ontario, not only to the workings of the private sector but to the people who work in the private sector. That is clearly demonstrated when we understand the aggressiveness of our Ministry of Industry and Trade and its predecessors over the years, that have been in the forefront in bringing industry into the province to enhance the standard of living we have come to enjoy. This is why we not only have development corporations in the province but also aggressive marketing offices in the major cities of the United States, Europe and the Far East.

Because of the awareness and sensitivity of this government, we have developed what are the most progressive and humane labour laws found anywhere on the North American continent, derision that may come from our socialist

friends across the way notwithstanding. It is apparent to many private entrepreneurs around the world that Ontario provides—socially, economically and politically—the most stable jurisdiction within which not only individuals but private businesses can comfortably and securely undertake their business projects.

The fact is, businessmen must first and foremost be prudent when making risk decisions about where to locate their business enterprises. Just in the past few days I talked with a businessman who has discussions going with some European businessmen interested in setting up in Ontario. Before they would even consider coming, prudent as they are, they insist on having a complete dossier on all past laws and all the labour laws enacted in the province and what is on the calendar for future legislation so they could analyse and assess whether it is a climate they want to come into.

They must know whether it is positive and responsive to business and a place where they feel they can take business risks. Then they would benefit not only their business concerns but the country that they want to do business in by hiring people to not only build their plants and facilities but also to operate and manage them. There has to be that positive and stable attitude between labour and management, as well as political and social stability. That is why this government has been so successful in developing Ontario as the industrial heartland of this great nation of Canada.

5:10 p.m.

This resolution concerns me because it develops a type of aggravation I do not think the business sector would appreciate or need. This is that they have to be told they must consult in each and every instance with their employees when they have to make that heart-rending and difficult, harsh economic and social decision to close down their plant or to cut back on their operations such that it will either mean layoffs or permanent terminations, including their very own source of employment.

What is overlooked on many occasions is that the men or women who have to make these decisions, as the policy people in these companies, are themselves just as hurt by the layoffs. In fact they are doing themselves out of jobs when they find they just cannot make an economically viable go of it. It is a tragic situation that none of us relish or even like to talk about in a way other than out of shock and concern.

With respect, I do not think it will work to

insist by legislative imposition that there must be consultation. It has to be optional depending on the circumstances of that company, on its size, on the nature of its operation, on its employees and on a host of individual considerations that can only be determined on their individual merits.

I might point out that the efforts to consult with employees have backfired in union operations more often than not. I think it is regrettable that management, when in labour negotiations or on the eve of entering into labour negotiations, is accused of bargaining in bad faith. When management has cautioned the employees and the union representatives that they are on a precarious economic brink and that they should try to be moderate in the increases and benefits they are asking for because they might jeopardize the very wellbeing of the company, the unions can turn around and say management is going to bargain in bad faith because company executives are threatening them.

They are saying the company likely to be closed down and put out of business and they won't have a job to come to. This type of situation has backfired when companies on occasion have felt that they could, given the circumstances of their operations, take all of their employees into their confidence and discuss the economic problems and trials and tribulations.

The Deputy Speaker: One minute.

Mr. Williams: We have in place in this province, under the initiatives of this government, the type of legislation that I think provides the appropriate balance with regard to labour and management. We have our Employment Standards Act which does provide review processes. It provides that after the decision has been made for cutbacks and temporary or permanent layoffs, or even the closing down of an operation the Ministry of Labour and its resource people are there to ensure that any of the rights or benefits under the collective agreement with the company, if there is one, will be lived up to and adhered to. The government is there to assist in those difficult times.

I think we have struck the appropriate balance in that this type of resolution would only tend to inflame the situation and is one, therefore, that I feel we cannot support at this time.

Mr. Newman: Mr. Speaker, if I do not use my full time I would like it used by one of my colleagues from the Essex county area.

Mr. Martel: That is a new rule. I am sorry it does not work.

Mr. Newman: We are up first so it will automatically come to us the third time around.

I would first commend the member for Kitchener-Wilmot for introducing Ballot Item No. 4, the resolution which reads:

"That in the opinion of this House, and as a result of the heightened vulnerability of workers throughout Ontario, the government should introduce amendments to the Employment Standards Act and the Ontario Business Corporations Act to create, in specified cases, an obligation upon an employer considering worker layoffs or plant shutdowns to consult with the employees prior to the tentative decision to lay off workers or shut down the plant."

I commend my colleague for presenting this resolution in the House for discussion. I know some may call it a Mickey Mouse and a motherhood issue, but it is better to be discussing things than simply using the confrontation approach.

I happen to live in an area where there is not only high unemployment but, in the past, cyclical unemployment. Coming from a town like that, I know the social effects on individuals as well as on the community as a whole. The municipality cannot provide services because so much of the budget is being expended on other services.

The city of Windsor has had its ups and downs, but it is going to survive. It would have had this hope much sooner if the government took into consideration the most difficult conditions under which it is now attempting to run its own municipality.

The resolution is not the final answer, but it is the start of a dialogue between three sectors—management, labour and government. The government introduces legislation so that management and labour can live without using the confrontation tactic all the time. I know management does not want the confrontation tactic any more than does labour. I probably should have made that remark in the reverse order.

On April 27, 1970, I asked the following question in this Legislature. That was at the time Erie Flooring and Wood Products overnight laid off workers and closed. It meant the loss of 142 jobs. I think it was in West Lorne but I am subject to correction. I asked the Premier of the day, Mr. Robarts, why the government did not examine the company's books to determine whether there was a legitimate reason for the shutdown. Apparently the company just closed

its doors without justifying the fact that they were not going to operate.

That is completely wrong. In an attempt to have a closer dialogue between the two parties, I asked the Ministry of Industry and Tourism in 1978, "Will the minister require industry to give substantial notice of any production changes that may adversely affect either the industry or any community in Ontario?" The question was self-explanatory.

I have also introduced the community as the third party in the whole agreement, because not only is labour adversely affected but also the city and/or the province. A lot of additional charges are involved to a community as a result of plant layoffs. Whether it is a small plant or a big plant, it is all according to the size of the community in the first instance.

In a city like Toronto maybe 1,000 employees would not mean too much unless they came from one plant. But in a smaller community 15 or 20 employees being laid off is a substantial number. When it came to West Lorne and the 142 woodworkers who lost their jobs, it was an extremely traumatic experience. We have to think of an approach to get the two parties involved, at the bargaining table, to attempt to resolve their differences. They must come together in an attempt to resolve the problem and build for a better province.

5:20 p.m.

Back in the same year I asked the Minister of Labour if he would require Chrysler to give substantial advance notice of any changes in production plans. Members might wonder why I ask about production plans. Changes in production plans, whether they substantially increase or decrease employment, have an effect on the community. Production plans may mean the municipality will be involved in heavy financial outlays for various types of services. It could also mean there might be substantial numbers of layoffs, which will adversely affect the community as a result of the greater demand for social service benefits.

I also pursued this subject as recently as a year and a half ago, when I asked the Premier if he would require industry not only to give substantial notice of production changes but also ensure that the actions of the company involved do not violate the intent of the auto pact. I have been alerted to a lot of the difficulties a municipality is confronted with as a result of having these mass layoffs, and the dramatic changes that are involved when a new type of equipment is introduced in the plant.

The changes tomorrow are going to be more substantial as we get into computerization in the manufacture of practically everything.

When we see the robotics that are used in Japan at present we can foresee what will take place on this side of the ocean in the manufacture of practically everything. Robotics may not be adapted to certain things, but manpower is going to be substantially reduced unless governments start preparing for that day tomorrow. There are many other things I could mention; however, I would like one of my colleagues to have an opportunity to speak and use up my unexpired time.

The Deputy Speaker: We have a problem with your suggestion. You must understand it is not the established practice to give your time to one of your own colleagues. Once your time is expired, we just go on to the next speaker.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, I would be quite happy to use his time.

The Deputy Speaker: You are not allowed to have it either.

Mr. Wildman: This is by mutual agreement here.

Mr. Speaker, I must admit when I first read this resolution I was a little perplexed because, as my colleague said, it is very vague. I read it very carefully and I tried to determine what the member for Kitchener-Wilmot meant by the word "consult." I also listened to his speech today to try to determine what he meant by consult, and I am afraid I still do not know. He did mention notification, which is required under the present legislation. We in this party believe it should be greatly strengthened, and notification should be extended significantly. There were discussions about that in the plant shutdowns committee.

I can certainly support the view that there should be notification, and substantial notification, not only in terms of a shutdown or a layoff, but even in terms of changes in marketing strategy, changes in the technology that is going to be used. I can certainly support that if that is what is meant. However, I think consultation should go farther than just plain notification. I did get some indication of that from the member's speech introducing his resolution but, again, he was vague about it.

Today there does tend to be some consultation, depending on the industry. For instance, we could look at the recent experience at Inco where the company suggested it was going to lay off 850 employees. The union there went to bat,

along with the local members of this party, and made proposals for alternatives. These led to a change whereby early retirements, leaves of absence and a number of other changes were introduced which lowered the actual layoffs to something like 200.

That is obviously possible today. I would agree, however, that kind of consultation is probably only viable under our present laws where there is a strong union that can work and speak for its members in dealing with a company that is used to dealing with the labour movement in that process. That might not be viable with a smaller operation, a weaker local or a weaker union.

How anyone could argue against consultation is beyond me, but I still have the problem of exactly what the member means. I thought from some of the comments he made, especially when he was referring to Sweden and West Germany, that he was actually talking about industrial democracy. I thought he was not just talking about layoffs or shutdowns but was talking about a role for the workers in decision-making in the corporate boardrooms. I thought he was actually talking about the government obliging companies to move to a point where they would involve workers in everyday decision-making in terms of profit and loss, marketing technology and all the other decisions that have to be made by business.

I will be quite frank. There are people on both sides of the fence, management and labour, who might have some difficulties dealing with that because of the old attitudes we have seen over many years in North America, not just in Ontario but throughout North America.

I am still not sure if that is what the member meant when he was talking about consultation. I am not sure the West German experience would work here, but it is something worth looking at. However, the member did not spell out that was what he was talking about. He did refer to the Japanese experience and talked about the different relationship between management and labour in Japan. There is no question that is correct.

But there is something else the member did not mention. This is that in Japan they have an accepted tradition of lifetime job security. Once an employee takes a job with a company and shows himself to be a dedicated worker he knows he will not be laid off no matter what. That is the situation in Japan. I am not sure the member for Kitchener-Wilmot is suggesting we should attempt to legislate that kind of relation-

ship in this jurisdiction. He does not seem to be saying so, but I do not think he can deal with the Japanese experience and say we have to have the kind of consultation that takes place there unless he involves all the components, including lifetime job security. That is a very different attitude which would have to be accepted in this jurisdiction.

I am not sure that kind of proposal would meet with much acceptance in the corporate boardrooms of Toronto or New York. As a matter of fact, I understand there is a proposal before the European Parliament now, introduced by a socialist member from Holland, which would require a significant increase in consultation between workers and management.

Right now there is a tremendous lobby being mounted in Washington by the transnational corporations that are centred in the United States for the Reagan government to use all its powers to persuade the members of the European Parliament against supporting that resolution. That is in a jurisdiction in Europe where most of the social democratic countries have much more consultation and required notification.

5:30 p.m.

When they talk about notification in Europe they are not just talking about notification of workers; the government is involved. That is not spelled out in this resolution. If they are going to lay off in West Germany they not only have to notify their workers, they also have to notify the government and they have to justify why they are going to lay people off.

That is a route we should be looking at, but this resolution does not talk about that. It does not talk about a tripartite system; it does not talk about anything. It talks about motherhood, as my colleague said. Obviously we are not opposed to motherhood and we are not opposed to consultation.

The member did mention a couple of things that alarmed me. He referred to times of economic hardship when workers and unions must be prepared to consult—and I think he was talking about negotiate—with management. He referred to the Ford-United Auto Workers deal as a situation where I believe the member said there was a sharing of information. It is certainly true there was a sharing of information and there were some concessions won, I suppose, by the employees.

Let us look at that agreement. If a union, a bargaining unit, agrees to give up paid holidays in order to gain job security, has it really won

what the workers are looking for? If they give up holidays, that means the company does not need as many employees as they suggest they needed before a layoff and it will probably mean fewer jobs. In the next few months it will be interesting to see what that agreement means for the United Auto Workers in the United States. We may find that the position taken by the UAW in Canada will be borne out by what happens in the United States.

The member spent a lot of time talking about foreign ownership and, as my colleague said, that is the main problem we have here. We have a problem in that industrial and economic decisions are not made in this country, they are made for branch plants by parent firms elsewhere. We do not control that and the resolution will not do anything about that. If the member is as concerned as he says he is about foreign ownership, I would have preferred if he had moved a resolution in this House requesting the federal government to strengthen the Foreign Investment Review Agency so that the federal Liberals would have to do something about the sellout of this country since the Second World War.

There are decisions being made that mean layoffs and plant closures in this province because we do not have any real say at all. Those decisions are made in New York and Washington, and when there is a slowdown in that country we pay for it.

I will support the resolution because to be against it is like saying one is against motherhood.

Mr. Barlow: Mr. Speaker, in recent years worker layoffs, partial plant closings and entire plant shutdowns have been of increasing concern to the members of this House, indeed to all Ontarians. Closures and layoffs have also affected our neighbouring jurisdictions. The unemployment rate in our sister province of Quebec remains about four percentage points above ours. The situation in the neighbouring Great Lakes states of Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York is not much better. This is not a reason to congratulate ourselves but it is a fact.

Another fact, and we all recognize it, is that workers in Ontario are more likely to be laid off today than they were a year ago. That is sad but it is true.

The problems facing Ontario's employers at this time are also great, and we should remember it is not only the workers who suffer in these times but also the employers. High interest rates, declining consumer demand, tougher

competition, not only here but on the international scene, as well as little growth in labour productivity, have all contributed to pressures that employers must face, particularly those in the manufacturing sector.

This government has acted to address the problem of plant closures and the layoffs associated with them. I can assure members that, where practical suggestions are made, we will remain ready to listen to them and to act upon them. Unfortunately, the proposal before us right now could well work against the creation of new jobs in Ontario, and I do not believe any member on either side of this House would quarrel with that or place obstacles on creating jobs.

The problem of plant closures and layoffs is a serious one, and it is reassuring to know that the members opposite are just as concerned as those of us on this side of the House, and that there are members who are willing to propose solutions to ease the hardship these workers face upon learning they will be laid off, their plant closed and their future unknown. These are the same concerns that prompted this government in 1980 to create the plant closure review and employment adjustment branch.

This branch has been given a number of responsibilities, including information gathering, mediation and co-ordination of local counselling and training. It examines the reasons given for the closure of a plant and looks into the possibility of avoiding the closure or even reducing the number of workers affected. The branch also helps in coping with labour relations problems that may lead to a plant closure or labour relations problems arising from an announced shutdown.

In 1981, the branch intervened in 24 instances where closures were either announced or were pending. The information gathered in these instances has been used to determine the government's response in those particular situations. Counselling programs at community colleges have also begun, with co-operation from the Ministry of College and Universities.

Mr. Martel: That's going to help.

Mr. Barlow: It sure will.

Such an arrangement has provided laid-off workers with career counselling and job counselling, as well as training. As my friend the member for Kitchener-Wilmot well knows from the Ontario Manpower Commission report on the labour market outlook for Ontario from 1981 to 1986, individuals with community col-

lege training are now, and will remain, in great demand on the job market.

The experiment in counselling was first tried in co-operation with Seneca College for the former employees of Schick razor blade company. That experiment, judging from the feedback from participants, was very well received and by the way, the follow-up was conducted by an independent consultant group, so it was not a matter of the bureaucrats congratulating themselves on that point. The unfortunate shutdown at Canadian Admiral came near the end of the experimental period, which was then expanded to cover that layoff. Later the closures at Shop-Rite Catalogue Stores, Levi Strauss and others benefited from that.

Sheridan and Conestoga colleges also began participating in this program, which the government is now funding in instances where over 50 employees are affected. In Cambridge, the Canadian Admiral closing affected 452 workers, and because of the remote chance of the plant reopening under the Inglis company, some 200 of the laid-off employees decided to attend the presentation. About 170 actually went through the counselling, and about 75 of them are now retraining and upgrading themselves in courses such as metal machining, welding, food preparation, butchering, industrial maintenance, clerical, secretarial, registered nursing assistant and upholstery repair.

The final report on the progress of the counselling has not yet been completed, so at this time it is impossible to know how successful the counselling has been. Needless to say, the counselling provided through this program is far superior to that received elsewhere. High unemployment has resulted in Canada Employment Centres being swamped and, as a result, counselling there has suffered.

5:40 p.m.

Through the counselling program and community colleges, the government is able to provide 18 hours of counselling and placement assistance with provision for more one-on-one counselling later. While the cost to the government varies from \$150 to \$200 per individual, it will work to our benefit if they are ready for meaningful jobs when things open up rather than receiving public assistance for long periods of time.

The members will also recall that about 10 months ago, in June 1981, this government amended the Employment Standards Act to provide severance pay in those instances where 50 or more employees lose their jobs as a result

of the full or partial closure of a plant. The act now requires that one week's pay for each year of service be given, up to a maximum of 26 weeks for employees with five or more years service.

With the amendments to the Employment Standards Act, the Ministry of Labour has authority to provide for employer participation on manpower adjustment committees. I hope I have been able to convey to my neighbours and my colleagues on the other side of the House that this government has done a great deal already, possibly more than any other jurisdiction, to reduce the burden on workers who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own.

I recognize the concerns expressed by my colleague from Kitchener-Wilmot. However, I am concerned this proposal would not prove to be practical in preventing layoffs or even in providing any meaningful assistance where a layoff is contemplated. For business reasons, an employer in all likelihood would not be able to provide the information the employees or the union would want. Unfortunately, the consultative process would not achieve anything useful. It may result in the deterioration of labour-management relations.

An hon. member: Is this one of the official languages?

Mr. Barlow: This is the official language at the present time.

An hon. member: You are not supposed to read a speech in the House.

Mr. Barlow: I hope my colleague opposite will continue to provide suggestions on this important topic. I look forward to the next time, when he can provide a constructive proposal that we on this side can accept without reservation.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise—

Mr. Speaker: May I point out to the honourable member that he has four minutes.

Mr. Mancini: Thank you. You are being very generous today, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the extent of the time you are allowing me.

I rise in support of the resolution that has been presented by the Liberal member for Kitchener-Wilmot. As members of the House know, I had the opportunity to sit on the committee that studied plant closures and employee adjustment. We certainly do need consultation when serious matters such as plant closures or the mass layoffs of employees are concerned.

It is clear that the record of the plant closures committee will show that the Liberal members of that committee were strong in their efforts to convince the management that came before us and to assure the leaders of the labour community that we were in favour of such consultation and would go even further if necessary.

I am somewhat disappointed with the Conservative member for Oriole (Mr. Williams) and the Conservative member for Cambridge (Mr. Barlow)—especially the member for Cambridge, whose riding is experiencing quite a bit of employment difficulty now.

The news media has carried several large articles about the mass layoffs going on now in the area of Cambridge. It would, I am sure, be beneficial to that member and to the people in his area if he were to support something such as has been proposed by my colleague the member for Kitchener-Wilmot. All he has asked the House to endorse is a consultative approach to these severe problems. I would be willing to support even more stringent measures.

It is my view that when plant closures occur there has to be justification. We cannot allow small and large communities to spend taxpayers' dollars to build an infrastructure to support industry in the area—in many cases providing government assistance through the Ontario Development Corp., through Board of Industrial Leadership and Development funds and through other agencies of provincial and federal governments—and then have these plants leave for what they consider to be greener pastures, specifically the southern United States.

For large corporations making profits in these plants, it is not good enough that they want to close these plants just to increase profits, say, from six to eight per cent, because of different circumstances prevailing in various parts of North America. Such actions by large corporations, especially the ones witnessed in the plant shutdowns committee, are irresponsible.

For example, I now recollect the mayor of Hanover who came before our committee. He urged us to order these companies to consult and to justify. In his view, a plant closure in a small community not only lays off the workers, not only causes unemployment, but brings economic disaster to the whole community. That is why I support my colleague, the member for Kitchener-Wilmot. I am disappointed in the government.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, when my colleagues to the left indicate that I have not gone far enough and those across the floor that I have

gone too far, I am led to believe that perhaps my proposal is at least somewhat responsible. It is precisely that kind of confrontation I am trying to get a handle on, to alleviate.

Business and labour in Ontario have for far too long accepted the premise that the only way to resolve anything is to fight with one another. A number of my colleagues have indicated that during the work of the committee on plant closures and layoffs the issue of justification came up time and again, and that many witnesses indicated it was needed. What I am suggesting is the beginning of that, just the beginning of justification.

If we put, as my proposal suggests, an obligation upon an employer that he must sit down with his workers and talk to them, show them why closure is pending, that is the first step in justification. In order to give that information the employer will have to lay his cards on the table, to open the books, to indicate what the problems are. That is the first step in justification. Maybe it does not go far enough; but somewhere, somehow, we have to make a beginning.

It is also very well for my colleagues to the left to say: "This is not the same cultural situation we have in Sweden. We do not have the same historical background we have in West Germany. We have too many branch plants in Ontario." All this is true. That happens to be the reality of Ontario. I do not like it any more than they do, but that happens to be the reality.

The question is, what do we do about that reality? Do we put our heads in the sand and say that because we do not have that background, because we do not have the same tradition as Japan, because we do not have the same lifelong employment tradition, there is nothing we can do in Ontario? Is that their recommendation? I suggest no. I suggest that we recognize the reality in the province and begin to do something about it, begin to make it an obligation of employers and management in Ontario to justify to their workers what they are doing, because their workers' livelihood and their workers' lives are at stake.

5:50 p.m.

I really have a problem when the members for Cambridge and Oriole say this will not work. They imply two things. The first is that the workers really do not have anything to contribute; whether they intend it or not, that is the implication.

I suggest something quite different. I am

suggesting that we have proven, time and time again, that the workers have much to contribute. They can advise and suggest things that management may not have thought about, or at least some other way of doing things that management may have thought about. The very fact that they are prepared to sit down and act in a co-operative manner may give management second thoughts about what it is going to do.

The second thing implied is that management or companies in Ontario are not prepared and would not be prepared to share with their workers some of the problems they are facing. I do not think that is true either. It is that very implication that workers cannot have anything to contribute, that the companies are not prepared to share, that kind of attitude that is at the base of all our problems. How do we break that logjam? I suggest this is at least a beginning to break it.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS OF ONTARIO

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Gillies has moved resolution 12.

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Resolution concurred in.

PLANT LAYOFFS OR SHUTDOWNS

The following members having objected by rising, a vote was not taken on resolution 6:

Andrewes, Ashe, Barlow, Birch, Brandt, Cousens, Dean, Fish, Gregory, Harris, Hodgson, Johnson, J. M., Jones, Kolyn, Lane, Leluk, McCaffrey, McCague, McLean, Mitchell, Norton, Robinson, Runciman, Scrivener, Sheppard, Snow, Stephenson, Stevenson, Taylor, G. W., Taylor, J. A., Villeneuve, Watson, Wells, Williams, Wiseman—35

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I would like to indicate to the House the business for tomorrow and next week. Tomorrow and Monday we will continue with the debate on the throne speech motion, with the likelihood that the House may sit Monday evening to allow all members to participate in the debate. I hope we will know for sure by adjournment time tomorrow whether Monday will be a sitting night or not. If so, I will announce that.

On Tuesday, April 20, we will be concluding the throne debate. We will be continuing the debate in the afternoon and conclude it with the

vote on the amendments and the motion at 5:45 p.m. with a 15-minute bell.

On Tuesday evening we will do legislation in the following order: Bill 10 in committee of the whole House; Bill 175 in committee of the whole House and Bill 36 for second reading.

On Wednesday, April 21, the usual three committees may meet in the morning.

On Thursday, April 22, we will consider private members' ballot items standing in the name of the member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Charlton) and the member for Wilson

Heights (Mr. Rotenberg).

On Thursday evening, the House will debate the motion for adoption of the report of the standing committee on public accounts regarding the decision of the federal government to change existing established programs financing legislation.

On Friday, April 23, we will deal with legislation. We will continue any bills still remaining from the Tuesday evening list and then add Bills 38 and 41 for second reading.

The House recessed at 5:57 p.m.

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Ontario LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

No. 24

Legislature of Ontario Debates

11/3

Official Report (Hansard)



Second Session, Thirty-Second Parliament

Thursday, April 15, 1982

Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Thursday, April 15, 1982

The House resumed at 8:02 p.m.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Runciman: Mr. Speaker, I just have to complete my remarks begun Tuesday night. I would like to commend the government on its—

Mr. Elston: I hope it measures up to the first part.

Mr. Runciman: Right.

Mr. Ruston: On a point of order: I am sorry to interfere, but I was advised at the House leaders' meeting that they checked and the member for Leeds had completed his remarks. I am not arguing if he has or has not, but I was just told that at the House leaders' meeting.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): I thank the member for Essex North. The member for Leeds had only adjourned the debate. If he still wishes to continue his presentation that is his option.

Mr. Runciman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It will only take a couple of minutes, as long as I do not have the interruptions I experienced the other evening.

Mr. Stokes: Just let us know when you are finished.

Mr. Runciman: Okay.

As I was saying, I want to commend the government on its efforts to attract tourists in the face of some very stiff competition from New York State and Quebec. More needs to be done to attract a greater share of these tourism dollars to eastern Ontario.

The natural beauty of Leeds and some first-rate resort facilities, once discovered, often bring vacationers back to eastern Ontario. But the major problem remains: other than the beautiful Thousand Islands and the Rideau Lakes there is no major drawing card, no specific attraction.

I have made a proposal to the government that could eliminate that deficiency. Perhaps

most members are aware that until the 1950s Brockville was a major Canadian rail centre. At one time it had more than 1,000 people working on three railways: the Canadian National Railway, the Canadian Pacific Railway and the B&W, the Brockville to Westport.

The oldest railway tunnel in all of Canada runs right under the city from north to south, indeed right under Brockville city hall. I believe it is an ideal location for developing a firstclass railway museum.

Ever since Pierre Berton—who by the way has expressed an interest in this project—wrote *The Last Spike*, the public's interest in and attachment to the railway has been growing by leaps and bounds. This sentiment is not limited to Canadians. Europeans and Americans have also found a rekindled affection for railroads and the romanticism and pioneering spirit they have come to represent.

Since I brought this proposal forward last summer several meetings have been held with the CPR and municipal and provincial officials. A few weeks ago through the assistance of the province, economic assessment experts from California spent two days in Brockville reviewing the proposal.

The CPR has been extremely co-operative, especially in terms of their offer to reinstall trackage and supply vintage railway equipment.

Interjection.

Mr. Runciman: The member for Niagara Falls missed it the other night.

This development taking place on a staged basis over a number of years ultimately envisages a train run of approximately three miles starting at the river front, through the tunnel with station stops at the city's 55-acre recreation area and the provincial-municipal conservation area just north of the city.

I urge the province in this Brockville sesquicentennial year to look favourably upon this proposal.

In concluding my remarks, Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my government on its responsiveness and commitment to helping our farmers in these very difficult economic times. This government recognizes that leadership in the agricultural sector is imperative. We have

provided that leadership and I trust will continue to do so despite a lack-lustre commitment from Ottawa.

Leeds is one of the great dairying areas of the province and home base for one of North America's leading egg producers. In order for these important industries to survive in Leeds, this government must continue to do everything in its power to help them to keep their operations competitive and efficient without burdening them with an overabundance of regulation and red tape.

Our farmers are smart businessmen. They want to and are working very hard to solve their own problems. As long as we are responsive and as long as we continue to maintain a sense of security we will be able to count on them as we always have.

Thank you for your patience, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. McGuigan: I am pleased to join this debate, not to condemn every word of the throne speech but to express my sadness at some of the events I see in my own riding of Kent-Elgin and in an overall view of some of the events that are happening in Ontario and Canada.

The budget affects health care in Ontario and the ministry's handling of a nursing home in my riding has been a concern since I was elected in June 1977. Shortly after the election I was approached by a home in Dresden that had 21 beds reduced to 19. At about the same time the ministry announced that 60 new beds were to be allocated to the counties.

We asked the ministry to split the allocation of these 60 beds to bring a number of small homes up to a reasonable size. Of course we know where they went. They went into the Meadow Park Nursing Home in the city of Chatham. In the meantime the nursing home in Dresden has disappeared. One in Thamesville and Guilds have been amalgamated to a new home in Blenheim.

Mr. Kerrio: Hard-hearted Tories.

Mr. McGuigan: That is right. They do not care about older people.

Very recently, the one remaining home remaining around a former private home—because there is a nursing home in Tilbury—operating with 37 beds has been sold to a Mr. Don Stephens, former head of the Ontario Nursing Home Association. The beds will be moved to the city of Chatham. This will leave the east Kent townships, which includes the townships of Howard, Orford, Chatham, Camden, Zone

and the towns of Ridgetown, Thamesville, Bothwell, Dresden and the Moravian Indian Reserve without a home serving their community.

It also affects the two neighbouring townships of Elgin, which form part of the riding, and there is one municipally-owned home in the town of Dutton, which is at the extreme easterly border of Dunwich township. This home is owned and operated by Dunwich township and the village of Dutton, and preference is given to residents of these municipalities. This leaves the residents of Aldborough township dependent in part on homes in Chatham or in the neighbouring county of Middlesex.

8:10 p.m.

The result of this has been to generate a wave of protest in Ridgetown and district. Those who have their loved ones in the home in Ridgetown are vehement in their opposition to the physical move of the residents to Chatham, because of the shock this will be to their health and state of mind, and also the inconvenience to the relatives in having to travel another 35 kilometres to Chatham to visit them.

While everyone agrees that Barnwell Nursing Home provided loving care to the residents, they are agreed in general that the Nursing Homes Act should be enforced and that high standards should be adhered to. They cannot see, nor can I, why the enforcement of the act automatically means these beds should be moved to Chatham. When I spoke to the supervisor of inspection, Mr. Klamer, he cut the ground from under my case when he told me the move had been approved by the Kent district health council. But Mr. Peter Deane, head of the council, told me the council approved because it was told by the ministry that, if it did not, the licence would be withdrawn and the beds would be lost to Kent county.

Mr. Kerrio: Intimidation by the Tories.

Mr. McGuigan: That is exactly what it was. The council was put—

Mr. Stokes: You have to watch these Deans.

Mr. McGuigan: This one is spelled differently from the one you are thinking of.

The council was between a rock and a hard place, between taking a kick in the teeth or one in the shins.

Mr. Breaugh: Say that again.

Mr. McGuigan: That is an old farmer's expression.

It chose the latter. I could very well ask the

question, should the council, placed in a position like that, not consider resigning? What is its purpose in acting as a shill for the government to deflect the ire of the local people. I think it should resign.

There seems to be a consensus that in order to build and operate a new facility, a minimum of 60 beds are needed but, according to a list issued on February 22 of this year, by Ontario, the province of opportunity—I wonder who the opportunities are for—there are some 344 nursing homes in Ontario and 145 of these have fewer than 60 beds. In round figures that is 42 per cent.

In a letter to the minister, I pointed out there are two problems regarding nursing homes in rural Ontario. One is that the ministry looks upon counties as geographical units, ignoring the fact they are very large units in terms of distance, and the people of the smaller towns and village abhor the centralization of social services, such as nursing homes, in the larger centres. It was pointed out that matters of local pride, employment and convenience are real matters that should be treated with greater sensitivity.

I also mentioned another point. An allegation was made by a lady in Ridgetown, who I am told is going to be working for the new owner in Chatham, that the place was a firetrap. If this is true, then nursing home inspection reports should be made available to the public long before the district health council is put in the position of having to approve the transfer of the beds or face the prospect of having the beds withdrawn from the county. In my letter I challenged the minister, who is responsible for the people in these nursing homes, to investigate that charge of the place being a firetrap.

Further I pointed out that if a nursing home deserves to have its licence withdrawn, it seems the ministry should withdraw the licence and allow the beds to be bid upon by all prospective parties. The buyer, therefore, should put the alleged capital cost of from \$10,000 to \$25,000 per bed into either improved facilities or reduced costs to the consumer rather than into capitalization. Putting it into capitalization rewards rather than punishes the former operator for his or her failure to upgrade the facility to meet provincial standards.

I called upon the minister to stop the sale in the public interest, that enough beds should be awarded to Ridgetown and district and that the beds should be put up for bidding by prospective nursing home operators. I pointed out I am

not convinced 60 beds is the minimum size facility as is commonly suggested. I mentioned the 42 per cent. It comes out that, at 18.5 per cent interest, that \$10,000 capitalization comes to \$5.07 a day. It is some 14 per cent of the daily rate of \$34. If the capital cost is \$25,000, as some people allege, the carrying cost becomes \$12.68 per day.

I realize that in our market system quotas or licences assume monetary value. The best brains and economists have been trying to figure a way around that. They have not been able to do it so we have to face it but I ask, why should a licence that is under a cloud be allowed to be sold for such a price? This unnecessary cost is added to both the taxpayer and the nursing home consumer. If the home were so deficient it needed to be closed would not the government, the residents and the taxpayers be better served by having the licence withdrawn and sufficient beds allocated to the Ridgetown licence?

I believe we would be quite justified in allowing the beds to be moved to another Kent county community if no local person or combination of municipalities was willing to take up the licence that was offered.

I can understand that the minister, in looking at Ontario from his office here in Toronto, no doubt sees Kent county as one administrative unit. It is, of course, one unit but the one unit I represent occupies an area approximately 125 kilometres long by 40 kilometres wide. It is subdivided into one city and 10 townships, six towns and five villages. Citizens of every municipality are justly proud of their own community and strongly resent the move of their nursing home to a central community.

As members know, friends and relatives often combine a trip for social or business reasons from another part of town and from the surrounding districts with a visit to their friends or relatives at a local nursing home. That convenience for Ridgetown and district residents has been removed as have the conveniences of Dresden and Thamesville when their homes were closed and the licences moved.

I must affirm my choice of systems as the private ownership system. I know some members feel nursing homes should be under public ownership. I believe private ownership is in the long run the best system and that the present system of limiting the number of beds provides a captive market. Therefore the operators do not innovate; they do not bring about methods to try to react to that market and provide better and cheaper services.

I want to pass to other matters concerning the throne speech. I must confess I felt ashamed when I read and heard the trite, almost predictable content of that worthless document. I felt as an Ontarian and as a Canadian that the government was abusing the Queen's representative. That document might have been written for a green candidate in an election campaign. As a document for the Queen's representative to read in this chamber, I felt it had the wrong wording. They have no respect for the man and the office he holds. If words had failed the Lieutenant Governor I would not have been surprised.

8:20 p.m.

In less critical times, a bit of central-government bashing is part of the game. But not today when some 1.2 million Canadians are unemployed, when some 28 million people in the industrial world are unemployed, when war is near at hand in the Middle East, when the free world's economy is in tatters and when oil supplies are in the hands of a few men and subject to political events beyond our control, when politicians from both the right and left are marching to drummers who are outdated and represent failed systems, and at a time when this world so desperately needs co-operation and leadership.

We do not need political divisiveness, but the government has survived on that for 40 years, and they continue to go back to the well. The times demand some statesmanship. It was right for the government in the past and they continue to do the same, but I submit that they will face a more sophisticated electorate. And as Ontarians reap the harvest of the present policy of fed-bashing, they will eventually put an end to this practice.

The Ontario government is not alone in this by any means; it is happening all over Canada. In Newfoundland, the Premier recently won re-election on the issue of oil rights. Even if there is oil there it will not affect the financial future of that province for many years. In the meantime the people are suffering because they lack a provincial fish marketing policy. They know it works from the example set here in Ontario.

In Quebec we have a provincial government dedicated to the separation of that province. If Quebec eventually decides that its best interests lie with Canada, its treasury has been looted in the name of anti-Ottawa policy. We find today that the government of that province is even at odds with its own people because it has not been

able to deliver policies that work to the benefit of those people.

This government gave encouragement to those anti-Ottawa forces in Quebec, even while the former Minister of Industry and Trade, now the Minister of Health (Mr. Grossman), was pleading for a common market. Members should read his speeches. He points out that 14 per cent of our manufactured products are sold in Quebec as well as a great many agricultural products.

This government has no great philosophical aversion to French language rights in Ontario. They are moving every day towards French language—in the Legislature, French translations of our laws, French language in certain courts. In fact, the French language is there in many practical and proper ways but it is always short of recognized status. They stop just short enough to use the issue in election campaigns in those parts of the province where they know they can avoid the real economic and social issues and harvest a small but decisive percentage of votes. We do not hear the member for Chatham-Kent (Mr. Watson) campaigning on an anti-French basis because he has a big French population in one of his townships.

Mr. Foulds: Who is the member for Chatham-Kent?

Mr. McGuigan: We will show the member the next time around.

The Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Mr. Wells) makes great statesmanlike speeches on the subject of language rights. Members should read them.

Mr. Breaugh: Why?

Mr. McGuigan: That is what I wondered. He makes speeches about Quebec-Ontario co-operation, but one would think the conclusion of the speech was written by another speech writer because it bears no resemblance to the opening remarks. He always stops short with no co-operation on language rights.

The process is also working in the west where there is a worrisome group of people who have openly advocated western separatism.

Hon. Mr. Wiseman: Who wrote that speech?

Mr. McGuigan: I wrote it myself, as I write all my stuff.

Mr. Riddell: He is quite capable of writing his own speeches. We don't have the privilege of having speech writers. Only the Tories—

The Acting Speaker: Order. The member for Kent-Elgin has the floor.

Mr. McGuigan: Members have seen a side of my temperament that I did not often show during the past election. It amounted to one of the greatest assaults that has ever been mounted on an opposition member and we turned him back. I felt so angry and so upset on the occasion of the throne speech at the tawdry methods that were used. We have these candidates of separatist feeling in the west. When one looks at the railways and the Crow rate they are talking about out there, any rational person would say it was time to phase out the Crow freight rates.

Mr. Ruston: The member for Leeds believes in 115 years.

Mr. McGuigan: It is 85 years exactly since the Crow rates were brought in. Any person would say it is time for it to go. The separatists out there are using it. Perhaps they will use it successfully. Mr. Pepin says that although grain accounts for about 20 per cent of the railways' work load, it provides for only 3.5 per cent of railway revenues. He says that if the rates remain unchanged the railways would lose \$2.4 billion in the next four years. The released figures show that shipments of coal and potash to the west coast will increase much more dramatically than will grain shipments during the next few years.

In 1980 about 10 million tons of grain were shipped to the west coast. By 1990, it is expected double that amount will be shipped. Shipments of coal will have increased during the decade from 14 million tons to 53 million tons. Potash will increase from 3.6 million tons in 1980 to nine million tons in 1990.

That is to say nothing of the huge demand for Ontario products that will be developed because of that economic activity. Think of the trucks from Chatham, Oakville and Windsor, the diesel locomotives from London, the rail cars from Thunder Bay and the steel for rails from Sault Ste. Marie and Hamilton that activity would generate. Think of the consumer goods from small plants all over Ontario. Those things can be thwarted by small-minded provincial politicians.

Mr. Kerrio: Pygmy-minded people.

Mr. McGuigan: I am afraid we have some of them here. I find it sad that a country such as ours which has so many advantages is taking the low road and undermining the destiny of this country. Setting aside the spectre of our natural advantages, the tremendous advantages of soil, forest and mines, we have the advantage of history in this country. We are not marked with

a legacy of hatred from bitter civil or religious wars, the memory of which dooms so many countries almost forever. We see those events happening at this very moment.

I am sad this government would take one step to thwart the rich heritage of democratic parliamentary government by side-stepping the criticism of an honest and hardworking opposition. I include the other opposition party as well. They are hardworking people. The government is resorting to the easy way out by using such documents as the throne speech to put the blame on other people outside the Legislature who are not here to set the record straight.

The government is quick to use the monarchy in ways which suit it, such as state dinners for the Queen or the pomp and ceremony of next Saturday when it will wax eloquent over the patriation of the new Constitution. When it comes to political advantage, the government uses the Queen's representative in a mean and small manner.

I noticed that the throne speech at long last devotes some attention to agriculture, an industry that is so important to any potential we have here in Ontario to replace imports and export food. It is realizing the farming industry is a renewable industry. It produces a renewable product.

While it requires a great deal of capital, it does not require the billions of dollars that are necessary to finance a nuclear plant or a thermal generating plant. It does not require the billions of dollars of follow-through money necessary to finance and sustain the high-technology industries so often cited as being our great opportunity.

Our industry requires money and attention. But in relative terms it is a small amount of money, measured in millions and not in billions. And the government is mighty tight-fisted with even a million.

8:30 p.m.

Because of its relative dollar requirements and its increasing productivity, the industry contributes to fighting inflation. Inflation in our food products is less than in our input costs, and we are mainly in the black only because of our increasing efficiency. That increasing efficiency is threatened. We need to maintain the profitability of our industry to prevent the flow of capital out of the industry.

When a farmer goes bankrupt, capital flees to a higher-paying industry, most likely to an energy-related industry. We have to maintain the flow of young, good managers, well trained

people in industry. There has been a flow in recent years to agriculture. But, alas, I fear we face an outflow under the present weak prospects in Ontario.

It is not all this government's fault. World markets and conditions are not the best for agriculture. But other provinces have realized the value of their agricultural industry and have encouraged and sustained the industry.

We welcome the new minister. He has stepped boldly into a strange field. We hope his lack of hands-on experience will be balanced by his ambition and recognized ability in other fields. He has the opportunity to bring vitality to a ministry that has been drifting since the days of Bill Stewart. There are a lot of good people in that ministry just waiting for a chance to show their stuff.

Last summer, the then minister called a conference here in Toronto to consider what should be done about growing criticism of marketing boards which was appearing in the urban press. I congratulated him for his initiative. But not one member of the government party spoke candidly and openly on the subject; they made political speeches about co-operation and not rocking the boat. I spoke up and said I was concerned. I felt that one or two boards had taken a narrower view than their mandates called for and that they could do with some supervision by a council of boards and senior ministry people.

The meeting was a waste of government money. But it did evoke a great response from senior ministry people. They know the problems. They are as dedicated as I am to continuance of our marketing board system, and they recognize the benefits to both producers and consumers.

I read an editorial in a Calgary paper which said the agricultural minister was gunning for the "old boy" network of Ontario Agricultural College graduates. I say to the minister that he or any other minister can probably shake up that ministry and produce positive results. Those fine men and women in his ministry chose an agricultural education because they love the industry and the people in our system. From my contact with them, I believe they are eager to show what can be done if we give them leadership.

I also say to the minister that there is some apprehension in the industry that he and his deputy have been appointed to tear down the structure of Ontario agriculture, built at such

cost and so cherished by most in the industry. I think he must move boldly to dispel such fears.

I could not help but notice a quote from one of his officials in a US publication. The publication is called Focus and is put out by the packers. It was commenting on Canada. It said:

"William Doyle, assistant deputy minister of the marketing division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Toronto, said: 'It is a well-known fact that consumer prices rise substantially when produce is imported into Ontario and drop when local producers enter the harvest season. The longer you extend the marketing season, the longer you extend the moderating effect on prices to consumers. As a result, the provincial government has increased its involvement in agriculture.'"

Why did he feel that he had to go hat in hand to the Americans and give that reason as to the involvement in the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program in agriculture? Why did he not have the courage to say that Ontario agriculture has been neglected, that it needs restoration and that this government is standing on its feet and looking out for the interests of Ontario agriculture? We will pass that off to the federal Minister of Agriculture, who does that very thing.

I call on the minister to take bold steps and remove these apprehensions that we have, because we want to see him succeed.

One of the symbolic things he could do, I suggest, would be to buy a good cowboy hat—they are on sale right now—and wear that hat and indicate to the people of Ontario that he is the Minister of Agriculture and Food.

Mr. McKessock: The cattlemen have given him one.

Mr. McGuigan: Why does he not wear it? He could start a trend that would help an industry in the riding of Wellington South. He is a good size; he could wear it well. I would like to see him do that and indicate to the consumers and producers of Ontario that he is going to take hold of that ministry and run it for the benefit of the producers, the consumers and all the people of Canada.

Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, thank you for recognizing me on this, roughly the first anniversary of my entry into the Legislature, close to the anniversary of my first reply to the throne speech. I am somewhat dismayed by what has occurred—perhaps I should say what has not occurred—over the past year.

I first rose in this House a year ago to let the

people know that the riding of Huron-Bruce was made up of a very noble composition of agricultural interests and industries surrounding that great occupation, and sprinkled in there as well were the small businesses that were growing at a good rate until last March. They were working hard. They were doing it on their own.

I am somewhat concerned by the fact that since that election a year ago—at which time the government party promised great things and indicated to the voters of this fair province that there was nothing wrong with the economy, that there was nothing that would go wrong and that there was nothing but bright promise for the people of Ontario—they have reneged on the promise they showed to the people. We have had nothing but layoff after layoff from small businesses. We have had nothing but failures of those thriving farm industries.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: No wonder, with the fiscal policy of your colleagues in Ottawa.

Mr. Elston: We do not expect the Minister of Revenue to understand too much about economics. He has not done very much with respect to the property tax rebate system which he so unably reorganized.

In any event, we have suffered a loss of farm production in our area because of the decline in the number of viable farm operations, particularly in the livestock end of agriculture. I am discouraged that every report I read in the business journals indicates that by all the leading indicators Ontario is slipping ever closer to the abyss of bankruptcy with respect to the thriving economy it used to have.

I cannot say I was very pleased at the time to see the generalities and vagueness of the throne speech that opened the House in 1981. I have to admit I was awed by the whole situation. I was awed by the fact that I was here for the first time. I took it at its face value and in the spirit of the situation as perhaps leading to some promise. But I am afraid I saw the promise slip away with respect to those general and vague words that were outlined in the throne speech of 1981 at our first session.

I am utterly appalled and dismayed with the edition that opened the second session of this parliament. There is nothing in this throne speech that leads me to believe there is any vision at all left in the government of Ontario, because it refuses to do the things that ought to be done for this province.

They have refused to follow the lead of those other provinces which have taken hold of the very serious financial situation that a lot of the

business and agricultural sectors of other provinces experience. They have refused to acknowledge that there are solutions they could implement, and I cannot but condemn the writers of this script for failure for the province of Ontario. It is not a very happy document that we have.

I have a number of areas I would like to comment on with particular reference to my own riding.

Roughly a year ago I mentioned that we had the opportunity of a lifetime in the riding of Huron-Bruce to develop the Bruce Energy Centre. In the last election campaign, the Premier (Mr. Davis) came to the riding I was then contesting for my party and dropped off a good-sized cheque to help in the development of the Bruce energy centre, promising \$10 million—he can come back tomorrow and the day after; we will take him for \$10 million any day—but since then there has been hardly one visible sign of movement towards the development of an energy centre that would take advantage of the availability of volumes of waste energy currently going down the drain at the Bruce nuclear power development.

I am sorry to say we have been rewarded with a couple of studies and now, when we appear to most need the jobs at that facility, we are given another study to look into the feasibility of putting in a harbour at the Douglas Point area. That study has to be done with the co-operation of the federal government.

Perhaps it is worth while noting that in this speech from the throne, after a long number of paragraphs condemning the federal government for everything it is not doing, we come back to the bottom line of that whole opening portion, which says the future of Ontario jobs, policies and programs to help us get back on the rails depends on the financial support of the federal government. We will take their money, but we will give them their lumps and we will not admit they are helping us in any way. I think that is appalling. I condemn them for that and for writing the piece of garbage that was delivered to this House at the opening of the session.

I notice, after having been promised some development at the Bruce energy centre during the election campaign last year, that there is a wee bit of information in the speech from the throne which says there will be further development of greenhouses. I think that is a worthwhile development. The problem is that the bits-and-pieces approach to development in that area is causing serious harm to the original private movers of that whole concept.

The delay that has resulted from the entry of the Ontario Energy Corp. into the overall planning of the project is causing the financial ruin of the people who had the vision to come to the Ontario government in the first place to say they had an opportunity to provide jobs for the people in Huron-Bruce and in Ontario in general. The delays placed upon these individuals is unconscionable.

During the campaign I said that I supported the initiative that developed the concept of the Bruce energy park. I still support the initiative and energy of those fine individuals. Not all those individuals are of a particular persuasion that would lead them to support me at election time, but I was pleased when I found out the extent of the private initiative involved. I am not pleased with the way in which that initiative is being strangled.

Private initiative is being and has been stalled by the Ontario Energy Corp., which through the acquisition of some oil company is building an empire that is providing jobs for some people in a province far away from here, when it could be directing \$650 million to the development of energy parks, not only at Bruce but possibly also at other locations in the province, to provide jobs for the people of Ontario.

We could be keeping at home some of the people who are leaving this province, using the cheaper energy, getting away from the requirement for the fossil fuels which are shipped in from those western provinces and providing a great ingredient for the recovery of our economy and alleviate some of the suffering people really are experiencing, not just in my riding but all over this province.

I could go on at length about the things that have not been done on an economic scale, and I could go on at length about the deficiencies in the throne speech. I want to mention, however, two or three things that are particularly important to me now, since I have taken over the portfolio of critic of the Ministry of the Environment.

I note there is a small portion in the throne speech talking about doing some things in an environmental forum; however, there is a lack of specificity in regard to the environment. In this 28-page speech there is only one paragraph, on page 19, that addresses itself to the environment at all.

I am upset that there have not been more things said about cleaning up the environment. The Minister of the Environment (Mr. Norton) announced that he was declaring a war on acid

rain almost a year ago. With that declaration of war, one would have thought there should have been some development in the stalemate by this point. If we look at the throne speech there is nothing happening at all. Instead, all we got was a statement that Ontario Hydro would reduce emissions by 50 per cent by the year 1990 and that Hydro would provide leadership in the reduction of contributions to acid rain.

If we check the record, it should be pretty easy for Ontario Hydro to reduce emissions 50 per cent by 1990, because over the past number of years it has been doing nothing but increasing emissions until it has peaked at this point in 1982, and in 1983, 1984 and 1985 we are going to go ever higher. Presumably it will have an easy task, because it will have many tons of emissions to work with; and the larger the numbers, the easier it is to reach the 50 per cent figure.

We have Hydro installing some scrubbers on two coal-fired generating units, but one cannot really call that leadership. We have Hydro buying those scrubbers from the United States after it had an opportunity to develop that technology here. It sent the developer away to the United States. One can hardly call that leadership.

If we look at it, Ontario Hydro has got to be leading us on a goose chase through the wilderness of environmental decay.

It is necessary to talk a little bit about acid rain and Ontario Hydro. Acid rain is without doubt the most serious environmental concern we have in this province today. We have contributions not only from the facilities here in Ontario but also from the United States.

I want to note that with the exception of the Inco plant in Sudbury, Ontario Hydro is the leading emitter of those pollutants. On top of being in second place, there are plans to sell electricity to General Public Utilities of New Jersey. Through that export, if it is approved and takes place, we are going to add an additional load on the emissions produced by Ontario Hydro.

We know that Ontario Hydro is currently under a government control order to reduce emissions causing acid rain; in fact, by regulation dated February 13, 1981, Hydro was called upon to reduce emissions by 42.5 per cent by 1990. If one compares that with Hydro's suggestion, the 50 per cent figure is a great cause.

However, in spite of the control order, the 1981 forecast was for an emission of 509,000 metric tons per year, which was 24 per cent greater than the actual 1980 figure. During 1982,

those emissions are going to grow to 590,000 metric tons, which is a 44 per cent increase over the 1980 level.

8:50 p.m.

Using 1980 as the base year for comparison, Hydro will be reducing emissions by 4.9 per cent by 1985 and by only 36 per cent by 1990—considerably less than the 50 per cent which has been constantly referred to by the Minister of the Environment and the chairman of Hydro. The figures they have used do not bear up under the scrutiny of the people who are really taking a long and hard look at the emissions caused by the proposed sale to the GPU group in New Jersey.

Surely the lakes and lungs and legacy of this policy demand a better leadership in the reduction of the contributions to acid rain. We are not getting them.

I would like to go on longer about the problems of the acid rain; however, we have other serious environmental concerns. In particular, I have to mention the Stouffville situation. There are no comments in the throne speech relating to the Stouffville matter, which has been an ongoing one now for some time.

There is no mention either of any other locations where potential contamination of ground water might render the water nonpotable. We would expect that there would be some concern with this very precious resource in view of all the difficulties we have been finding surfacing all over the province.

It is interesting to note that on March 9, 1982, just hours before the throne speech was delivered, the Minister of the Environment held a 90-minute press briefing on the differences between the MOE testing and private testing conducted for concerned citizens of Stouffville in relation to the wells located near the Stouffville dump.

During the briefing, the minister made the following statement: "Those people who choose to make loose-lipped allegations about the integrity of either the minister or the staff of this ministry may find themselves accountable."

He discredits his office as Minister of the Environment when he threatens a slander action on the people of Ontario. He ought not to do that. He ought to look after his role of protecting the people of Ontario from the dangers of pollution.

If we take a closer look at the documentation available and do in-depth research using primary sources, we find the minister was making

certain allegations that cannot be fully substantiated from that press conference.

The controversy surrounding the Stouffville dump in the recent past has been embroiled in the questions of process mismanagement by the ministry. The ministry was created to assist in the protection of the environment. Its role is not to be an adversary, but that is the position it has taken.

I might add that if we look over all the last year's activities of the government of Ontario, the one thing that goes throughout the whole process is the development of a political process of confrontation. This confrontation causes turmoil, political confusion and suffering among the people of Ontario trying to take their minds, I suppose, off the inactivity of the government when it comes to dealing with the severe financial problems we are suffering in this province.

It is of interest to note there are no comments whatsoever in the throne speech about what is going to happen with liquid industrial waste management. It seems to me that the Ministry of the Environment has always had the need to deal with the disposal of liquid industrial waste but it has managed to set up a corporation which it has spirited off into some small corner of a government building somewhere in this fair town, I presume, never to surface again until some time way down the road when the controversy has died out.

It appears that the Ministry of the Environment has completely divested itself of any responsibility for dealing with this very serious matter. We cannot let them duck out of the responsibility which they have to the people of the province.

One would have expected in the throne speech a commitment of some sort coming up with a way of monitoring the disposal of liquid waste in Ontario. We know of the difficulties we have been experiencing over the past several months. We know of the problems with court injunctions regarding landfill sites that were not licensed to accept liquid waste. We know there are millions of gallons of liquid industrial waste being dumped annually into eight specific landfill sites which, by regulation in December, have been allowed to stay open even though their original mandate was not to accept these materials.

The then Minister of the Environment, Dr. Harry Parrott, promised in 1978 that the landfilling of liquid waste would cease as of December 1, 1980. It is now April 15, 1982, and the practice

still continues. I might add that not only is that practice continuing but also we have, in the prime mover of the Ontario Waste Management Corp., an individual who says there is no problem in a time frame term of reference in dealing with that problem. It seems there is an extreme difference of opinion between the former Minister of the Environment and the current chairman of the Ontario Waste Management Corp.

I might note, with some degree of sadness, that the new campaign Dr. Chant is on in trying to determine the candidate sites has led him to discover that the original consultants' reports, which were initially tabled with respect to the location of liquid waste disposal areas, were notably deficient in their research. In fact, they were so far deficient that he has decided to completely ignore them and do his own consultant work starting from square one.

I must say I am surprised that we have not had more information from the Ontario Waste Management Corp. in relation to its findings. I hope something is brought forward soon so we can see that something is being done with that issue.

Continuing on with the issues surrounding the Ministry of the Environment, I have been disturbed by the developments in my own riding in relation to the establishment of the earthen manure storage pits. The agricultural industry has developed a very intensive operation in some areas with respect to the raising of livestock which has caused many farmers to take very difficult decisions as to how they manage to store and eventually recycle their animal waste.

One of the answers in Quebec was to actually dig a hole in the ground and to use that reservoir for the storage of those liquid wastes. We found out those efforts in Quebec resulted in the pollution of the rivers and underground water systems in some of the areas where there was an intensive use of these sorts of pits, and we found all sorts of problems developed there.

There are people who would like to try to manage their manure operations in the same way, and in the township of Grey we have a situation where an earthen manure pit has been constructed, even though there was resistance by the municipal government to that construction. We have, in that fair township, an effort by the township council to deal on a credible level in a way that is sensitive not only to the needs of the farming community but also to the requirement that we look after the great resource of potable water, which we all need.

The efforts of that local municipal govern-

ment have been thwarted by the efforts of officials of the Ministry of the Environment, who in their own way have come between the people and the local officials by seemingly taking the side of the proponents in a way that seems detrimental to the maintenance of a clean environment.

9 p.m.

It seems to me this is not the way the ministry should work. The Ministry of the Environment should be available to the public to ensure that the public is able to get the very best independent advice and it should not seem to be in a position where it is actually using certain proposals as experimentation for bigger and better things. That sort of experimentation could result in the environmental pollution the people in that area fear so much.

I have received hundreds of letters—and I have them with me here this evening—from concerned residents of the township of Grey. They felt the Ministry of the Environment was not doing its job and was using the situation in the township of Grey to its own advantage to gather information and to say it is monitoring all sorts of new liquid waste disposal sites in the township and then coming back with some kind of data that will provide some theorist with writing material.

That is not acceptable to the people of the township of Grey. They want the Ministry of the Environment to provide them with assurances that the structure is safe and that there is no danger to the health of the people of that township. They cannot feel that way under the circumstances of this particular tragic situation.

I want to suggest to the ministry that when it is requested to give a certificate for the construction of one of these units it should not issue such a certificate until such time as all the clearances have been given by the local municipal officials. They have the right and the duty to deal with these issues, and I know for sure that the people of the townships and the local areas would be well served if the ministry would keep in mind the responsibilities of those local elected officials and work with them rather than around them. Enough said with respect to those earthen animal waste storage pits.

I want to take just a few minutes more to indicate my concern in regard to the Ministry of the Environment's dealing with the local municipalities when it comes to landfill sites. Situations in my riding have been brought to my attention where the ministry has decided it will look into the procedures of landfill operations

in the area. That is a good idea, but what it has done in the particular situation of Morris township is come in and look at a landfill site that was set up under the auspices of the Ministry of the Environment in the early 1970s, and was given a certificate for operation and a procedure for operation which has been followed under the guidance of a regional office out of Sarnia.

The ministry decided it would change the area's responsibility from Sarnia to Owen Sound and all of a sudden a number of officials descended on to this particular site to try to set up a new sort of procedure for landfill, even though the municipal people in Morris township were doing what they had been told by another individual from Sarnia. It seems to me the request by the people from Owen Sound was unreasonable since it meant the expenditures of thousands of dollars at the expense of the taxpayers of the township of Morris in dealing with a landfill site that was operating under the guidelines already established by the ministry. The efforts of the Ministry of the Environment in relation to actions like this have been misguided and misplaced and cannot be allowed to continue.

I want to wind up by making two or three more comments in a general sense. There are two things I want to point out to members of this assembly.

The economic difficulties of our times have caused great changes in the constituency of Huron-Bruce. In the small towns located there we see a decline in the number of occupied buildings on the main street, buildings that housed ongoing and very thriving small businesses. We see in those towns today store after store that is empty or has a sign in the window saying, "Going out of business sale," and we have no response at all from the insensitive government of Ontario.

Other governments in other provinces have decided to take the situation in hand and at least try to alleviate the difficulties surrounding the fiscal policies that have been developed, but not in Ontario.

Small towns are suffering because it is going to be very difficult for anybody to come into a small town and think it is worthwhile to buy a building, fill it with inventory and try to compete against larger businesses established in larger centres with a lot more purchasing power than the small, independent businessman can get together.

I know of a man in my home town in his late twenties or early thirties with a family. He

started out in a small business by investing \$40,000 in what was commonly called around the province a five and dime store. After two years of initially good success, he fell into the difficulties of the declining economy and rising interest. Today, that individual has had to sell his store and inventory and he is out of business. Not only is he out of business, but this man's family is not supported by any means whatsoever because he cannot find a job in Ontario. No effort has been made to help this person out.

This is an example of the difficulties people of Ontario find themselves in, difficulties that must be addressed by this government. The only response I have heard so far is that the Treasurer of this fair province (Mr. F. S. Miller) is going to bring in a budget on May 13. Of course he is preparing us for another round of tax hikes. It will be a very difficult budget, following the budget of 1981 which was full of tax hikes. This budget, by the sounds of it, is going to out-tax the last one.

Another symptom of the declining economy is one that has developed on a very practical level for an individual member when he is doing his constituency work. The number of people coming into my office and requesting that they receive Ontario health insurance plan premium assistance has increased dramatically. The number of people coming into my office asking for forms or applications for this assistance has climbed astronomically.

People who have never asked for this sort of assistance before are finding themselves out of jobs. Small plants in towns in my area have had to close down. The woodworking industry in Hanover and other areas that border on the edge of my riding is sending workers home for indefinite layoffs because there is no movement in Ontario's economy. But all we are promised is a budget that will increase taxes. That is a feeble and terrible response, and it is unacceptable. It is unacceptable that the government of this province would decide to continue in such an uncaring fashion.

9:10 p.m.

I want to suggest that there should have been more in the throne speech to provide incentives for people to stay in Ontario. How can we expect this province to go anywhere if we export our people to the western provinces and who knows where? We cannot afford to do it. I come from an area where we have thrived on exporting children who were raised and educated in the area. We provided the talent for Toronto, Kitchener and London.

Mr. Nixon: Some very good MPPs along the way.

Mr. Elston: Some very good MPPs. The difficulty is that our area has learned what happens when one exports our most treasured asset—the young people. The population of Huron-Bruce and many of the small towns, with the exception of one or two which are located directly adjacent to the Bruce nuclear power development, has stagnated and really not grown since the early 1900s. Basically that is because we have sent our children to other places to get jobs which fit the educational expertise which they have gained. It is unfortunate.

I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, if Ontario is going to do the same thing it will stagnate. The population will decline and it will be very difficult to hold one's head high when it comes to talking about the opportunities of a developed province.

I have one more comment about the agricultural sector. I welcome the opportunity of working with the new agricultural minister in dealing with the problems which are particularly critical in my area. As members know, the county of Bruce has probably been one of the hardest-hit areas in the province with respect to the decline in the red meat industry.

We have heard sincere words about the reorganization of the ministry, new priorities for the ministry, and I like the sound of that. However, if we take all year to organize and set new priorities it may be too late for a goodly number of farm people from the riding of Huron-Bruce and I find that unacceptable. We not only want reorganization and nice new terms of reference, we also want some action and I hope our new minister will get on with the job.

In relation to an old program which has been helpful to the farmers of Ontario, I urge the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to continue to put emphasis on the tile drainage programs. They are a very useful thing to the farming communities of Ontario. They are well worth the expenditure, increasing the tillable soils by immense acreage, opening up new areas of productive capabilities to a number of the farmers. I want to say the minister ought to continue to place an emphasis on these programs to sustain an increasing use of our arable areas.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to wind up by thanking you for allowing me to speak in reply to this speech. I would hope, however, that the amendment which has been proposed will be voted on

in the affirmative by all members, which would really show an open-mindedness to a degree which I could not imagine. Perhaps they will take it back and rework it.

In any event, I hope the shallow words that are placed before this Legislature on the opening of the second session are not equalled by a production of shallow legislation with results that should not be mentioned to the people of Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to take part in this debate. I was checking the record and cannot recall having taken part in the throne debate for a few years. I want, first, to congratulate the Speaker on assuming the position of Speaker and on the way in which he is handling the job. I think he is doing an excellent job. Also, in that congratulation I would like to include the Deputy Speaker, the member for Durham East (Mr. Cureatz), and yourself as the Deputy Chairman of the committees of the whole House for the job you are doing. I congratulate them on assuming these positions.

What I would like to do tonight is deal with only one section of the throne speech debate. That is the section that deals with our country and the assumption of a new Constitution. I wish to do this because we are on the eve of a historic weekend in the history of this country. I think it is well to reminisce a bit and record some of the things that have occurred, some of them known to the members of this House some of them perhaps not known to the members of this House, and to record some of my feelings and impressions about what we should be doing in the few months and years ahead.

Mr. Nixon: What are these ones we do not know about? Are these secrets about the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry)?

Hon. Mr. Wells: No, there are no secrets. I would like to tell members a little bit about what happened.

As members know, the Canada Bill has passed the British Parliament. It received royal assent on March 29, again a historic day. It was 115 years to the day, and even to the hour, when Queen Victoria gave royal assent to the British North America Act. On April 17, this Saturday, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth is coming to Canada—she is already here now—and she will be proclaiming our new Constitution and the Canada Act.

Mr. Nixon: Is it true that only you and the new

Privy Councillor will be there from the whole Legislature?

Hon. Mr. Wells: No, there will be a number of people there.

Mr. Nixon: And the Attorney General, of course.

Hon. Mr. Wells: The Attorney General? I do not know. Every Liberal I know and have talked to is going to be there, except those who are in this House.

Mr. Nixon: They are all at home on the farm.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I would suggest that the member perhaps has not been talking to the right people to get an invitation, because we certainly do not have any extra ones to hand out but I am sure there were a number around for various events.

What I would like to do is record some of the dates that I think are significant. Of course, November 5, 1981, was the date upon which the nine provinces and the government of Canada signed the accord which set the final stage of this constitutional revision in motion.

Mr. Nixon: What about the 10th province?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I will have more to say about the 10th in a few minutes. The introduction of the revised Canada Act into the House of Commons of Canada occurred on November 20, as agreed to in the accord. The third reading of that bill occurred on December 2 and was passed by a vote of 246 to 24, supported by the Liberal Party, the Progressive Conservative Party and the New Democratic Party, and the majority of the members of those parties.

Mr. Nixon: Did the federal member for Leeds vote for that?

Hon. Mr. Wells: No, I do not believe he did. I believe there were members from all parties who did not vote for it. That is why there were 24 votes against it. The fact is that 246 members representing a broad cross-section of the political representation and the population of Canada voted in favour of the bill on third reading. It was introduced into the Senate of Canada and there it passed by a vote of 59 to 23 on December 8. It was presented to the Queen in London on December 9, and was tabled in the House of Commons of the United Kingdom on December 22. On February 17, after a debate, it passed second reading by a vote of 334 to 44.

Mr. Stokes: Gee, there was a lot of absenteeism. They have 640 members there.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Yes, that is right. My friend has drawn attention to the fact that there was

not exactly a full attendance, something which we are not used to here this House.

Mr. Nixon: What about the House of Lords? Let's get to the important part of it.

Hon. Mr. Wells: There was a committee of the whole House debating it for a couple of days on February 23 and March 3. Then there was third reading in the British House on March 8, when the bill passed by a vote of 177 to 33.

9:20 p.m.

Mr. Barlow: I was in the House that night.

Hon. Mr. Wells: My friend was in the House. Some members of our standing committee on procedural affairs were there.

Mr. Nixon: No, this was another committee.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Excuse me, this was another committee. It was introduced for first reading in the House of Lords on March 10. It passed second reading with no dissent on March 18, the committee stage with no dissent on March 23 and third reading with no dissent on March 25. It then received royal assent on March 29 and it will be proclaimed officially to take effect this Saturday, April 17. After 115 years, we are finally bringing home our Constitution.

This act is the product of a lot of hard work and a concerted effort by many Canadians. I think we have achieved a remarkable document, one which represents a reaffirmation of our nationhood, our belief in the monarchy, our belief in democratic and human rights, and our belief in our parliamentary system of government. In short, this new Constitution represents our vision of Canada. I say that notwithstanding the fact a prominent columnist of the Toronto Sun says it does not represent anybody's vision of Canada. I challenge him. I think it does represent what most Canadians feel and believe should be this country of Canada.

There have been some I have spoken to, and I know some of my friends in this House have perhaps had these same questions put to them, who have asked and wondered whether we will still have a Queen after patriation of the Constitution. The fact is that Her Majesty's position and that of her representatives in Canada will remain unaltered notwithstanding the fact the Constitution is coming home to this country and is a made-in-Canada Constitution.

We will still have a Queen of Canada and her role will be protected. I am one who believes it will be enhanced and strengthened in our new Constitution, as it should be. I believe the monarchy is an institution which continues to generate feelings of reverence and allegiance,

and serves as a genuine inspiration to many of our citizens; the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) was supposed to applaud.

The road to constitutional reform in Canada has been a long one and has known a number of sharp turns. The failures of the first ministers' conferences to reach any consensus on reform have been numerous. The first was in September 1980, only four months after the Quebec referendum and—

Mr. Nixon: Come on, what about 1971? That is when you people fouled it up.

Hon. Mr. Wells: We did not foul it up.

Mr. Nixon: Your Premier (Mr. Davis) did.

Mr. Wells: I do not want to get into a historical debate about that with my friend, but we were not the province that fouled it up in 1971. We came close then but we did not achieve any consensus. Things were put on the back burner. Discussions began again shortly after the mid-1970s. In September 1980, only four months after the Quebec referendum and a summer of unprecedented meetings and discussions where we all worked hard to come to some agreement, for the third occasion in a decade success eluded us and no agreement was reached.

As we all know, in spite of that deadlock which occurred in September 1980, the federal government decided to introduce a resolution on constitutional reform in Parliament. This resolution provided for patriation, an amending formula, a Charter of Rights, a reaffirmation of equalization, a clarification of provincial ownership and jurisdiction over nonrenewable natural resources.

That bill and that new Constitution introduced by the federal government in the Parliament of Canada was considered clause by clause in public hearings over a three-month period. That must be recorded as one of the significant milestones that were passed as we arrived at this constitutional agreement because, contrary to what some people seem to believe about this constitutional package, this was a time when Canadians from all walks of life, as well as their elected people, had an opportunity to have real input and to have their say on what would be in this Constitution. If we were to look at the Hansards of those meetings, we would find many suggestions were made and many changes made to the constitutional package by the House of Commons and Senate joint committee.

During this period only Ontario and New

Brunswick supported the federal government on its resolution and constitutional package. The other eight provinces were opposed and in April 1981 they announced an alternative known as the accord of the Group of Eight.

Mr. Nixon: The Gang of Eight.

Hon. Mr. Wells: We like to call it the Group of Eight, but colloquially it was known as the Gang of Eight's accord and it had within it the amending formula known as the Vancouver amending formula. It had no charter of rights.

Another important event was on September 28, 1981, when the Supreme Court of Canada met and handed down its decision. It declared that the action by the federal government to forward its constitutional resolution to the United Kingdom Parliament would be legal, but that traditional constitutional practice or convention in Canada required that such action be undertaken with the approval of a significant number of provinces. The words "significant number" were not defined. The most important aspect of the ruling was that it determined for the first time that the unanimous approval of all provinces was not necessary, something which many constitutional and other experts in this country believed was a requirement.

Following the Supreme Court decision, I think an attitude of concern was also developing—I am casting for members the background to the November 5 meetings last fall after the Supreme Court of Canada decision and so forth. At the same time certainly I sensed, as many of us did, that there was an attitude developing in the United Kingdom. Even among members of the House of Commons and the House of Lords who were sympathetic to the federal resolution, a number began to believe they were being asked to make choices with regard to constitutional reform that, in their view, more properly should be made in Canada, and that whatever the traditional constitutional convention as indicated by the Supreme Court of Canada might be, it should be followed.

Mr. Nixon: Wasn't the advice that they were supposed to hold their noses and pass it?

Hon. Mr. Wells: No. We did not give them that advice. Word of this attitude on the part of those in Great Britain was seeping back to many of us here in Canada, and I am sure to all governments, including the federal government.

Mr. Nixon: Seeping back? Some people went over to get it.

Hon. Mr. Wells: We went over, but the attitude I have just indicated was not always the

public attitude put forward. That is what I am trying to stress. The concern that the package as it was might not be passed was certainly being expressed privately, I believe by many.

Another interesting circumstance was occurring in the summer of 1981. Public opinion polls were showing that a majority of Canadians across the country favoured protection of their basic rights and freedoms in the Constitution. In other words, they favoured some kind of Charter of Rights.

One particular indication of this attitude was contained in a poll published by the Canada West Foundation in the latter part of October 1981. That poll called into question the opposition of a number of provincial governments to an entrenchment of the Charter of Rights. In other words, the people in many of the provinces of western Canada were in favour of some form of Charter of Rights whereas their governments were very strong opposed to any Charter of Rights in the Canadian Constitution.

At the same time, there was developing in many parts of Canada, including Ontario, a feeling that the constitutional battles, arguments, discussions and confrontations had to be settled by means of a compromise that would be good for Canada. What was required was a compromise package that could be broadly supported by most governments who would be discussing it.

9:30 p.m.

People were saying, "We want you to sit down and talk. We do not want you to come out and tell us you cannot agree." I think that idea forms a very important backdrop to the events of the first week of November 1981, because it was against this background that the Prime Minister of Canada, after talks with the provinces, decided that a first ministers' conference would be held. So at 10 o'clock on the morning of November 2, 1981, in the Ottawa conference centre, such a conference was convened to find a solution to this long-standing constitutional problem, a solution that would allow us to bring home a Constitution which would contain those things most of us felt Canadians wanted and expected to have in it.

After three days of formal private meetings—and many informal meetings which took place during these days and nights—the conference again assembled before the television cameras in the main conference hall. This reassembly was on the Thursday, and it was time to report to the Canadian public on the outcome of the private discussions.

I would say, having been there personally, that of those many commentators and newspaper people who were there, very few had given the meeting much chance of success. I think there was a real sense of shock in the room when they learned of the historic agreement that had been reached on November 5, 1981.

Mr. Nixon: Was Brian Peckford really the author of that agreement?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Brian Peckford was one of the authors.

Mr. Nixon: Roy was the other.

Hon. Mr. Wells: It was authored by many people.

At this point, though, having indicated that historic agreement was reached and announced on Thursday, November 5, in the conference centre, I want to backtrack for a minute. I want to draw the attention of the House to a series of events I think was crucial to that accord. I would like to draw attention to what I believe was a really crucial role played by the federal Progressive Conservative caucus in this whole process.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Wells: This must be very much underlined, because it was the Progress Conservative Party's determined fight in the House of Commons which I believe made the Prime Minister re-evaluate his decision to push for the vote on the constitutional package before the Supreme Court brought in its decision. Because of the concerted action of the federal Progressive Conservative caucus and the kind of fight they put up in the House, the situation came to the point of the government of Canada agreeing not to call the final vote on the constitutional package until the Supreme Court of Canada had reported.

That of course led to the report which I indicated earlier. And that led to the call for the November meeting which led in turn to the accord which had nine provinces and the federal government agreeing on a constitutional package, a much more desirable situation than we were facing at the time of the fight in the House of Commons when the Progressive Conservative caucus was engaging in its procedural tactics to bring about some other resolution of the problem at that time.

The accord that was arrived at in November was a true compromise. As part of that process it was necessary, for instance, for Ontario to accept changes in the existing federal Constitution to which it had previously been very

vigorously opposed. We accepted changes in both the amending formula and the Charter of Rights that we had opposed very vigorously since we supported the former federal package.

No compromise is perfect. In Canada, I think we have learned by long experience that we cannot aim for absolute perfection. Our goal has been and always will be to compromise when that compromise is truly in the national interest. That is what, I believe, occurred on this event. For the Premier of this province, (Mr. Davis) I think this agreement was the fulfilment of a real personal dream that went back to that initial first ministers' conference when the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk was also there.

It is probably the realization of a dream on his part, I hope, and for all of us who have been concerned over the last 10 years with some kind of renewal of Canadian federalism. This now represented the fulfilment of at least part of that dream we all had. Ten years and countless meetings later, we, particularly the Premier of this province, have had that intense satisfaction—not particularly, but specifically. I want to underline that because I regret that in many of the press stories this has not been emphasized enough. But I think the crucial player in all this was the Premier of Ontario. The role he was able to play—

Mr. Breaugh: Oh come on.

Mr. Nixon: Peckford. Even Peckford outclasses him. He must be a source of tremendous embarrassment to you all.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, perhaps the minister would permit a question?

The Acting Speaker: Is this a point of order or of personal privilege?

Mr. Renwick: No. It is just a polite question.

The Acting Speaker: No. It is not a time for a polite question. You will have an opportunity to present your position but it is not a time for polite questions.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, will you please not shout at me. I can hear you.

The Acting Speaker: I am just using my speaker.

Mr. Renwick: Perhaps in accordance with the tradition of the assembly, the minister would permit a question.

The Acting Speaker: The minister will permit a question. You may proceed.

Mr. Renwick: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question to the minister is put, as always, in the utmost good faith to him.

Does the minister believe that an amending formula and a Charter of Rights constitute the renewed federalism which was promised to the people of Quebec who voted against sovereignty-association in the referendum in Quebec?

Hon. Mr. Wells: My answer to that would be, yes, I believe the package contained here represents the beginnings, not the ultimate ends or the perfection that we believe could be achieved in renewed federalism. But it represents an improvement and an advancement. Certainly, as far as I am concerned, it is an affirmative answer to that renewal we promised to the people of Quebec.

I feel that way. The honorable member may feel differently but I feel this package does allow me to say, yes, this represents some advancement in renewed federalism in Canada.

Before the member for Riverdale asked the question, I wanted to say to the official opposition House leader and whip that I had promised I might only be about 40 minutes. I would say the way we are going now it is going to take a little longer.

I do believe that I should share this little story with the members. I can recall on the Wednesday evening, November 4—that is the Wednesday evening before the accord was signed; it was signed on the Thursday—sitting around the table with some of the Ontario people and the Premier. It was around 10 o'clock, we had brought in some takeout Chinese food from a little restaurant down the street from the hotel and we were eating out of the boxes. A telephone call came and the Premier retired to the bedroom of the suite to talk for a while. As the call was going on, someone mentioned that it was the Prime Minister of Canada.

About 20 or 25 minutes later, the Premier returned. He did not tell us who he had talked to or anything about the discussion. But I remember the one thing he said was, "You know, you can mark down 10:40 p.m. If it all turns out okay, it probably happened at 10:40 p.m. on this Wednesday evening." That was the result of a call between our Premier and the Prime Minister of Canada.

9:40 p.m.

That was not the whole happening. All I am trying to say is that one of the crucial players in this whole accord was the Premier of this province. I pay tribute and credit to all party members of this House who had, through thick and thin, taken a bipartisan approach to this. We had all supported the previous federal

government's constitutional proposals. We had all, by and large, stood up for them, although some may have disagreed with parts. There had been a fairly nonpartisan approach to the whole thing.

The point is that all of us who had been in any constitutional discussions share some satisfaction and pride in what happened that week in November. It was the culmination of much effort. Achieving a consensus was of paramount importance.

I indicated a few minutes ago that people were saying when we went into that meeting we could not come out with another failure. It could not be another conference that was aborted, as many of them were. As far as achieving something in a renewal of federalism, a new Constitution, patriation of our Constitution, something had to happen.

It was necessary, at that time, as a means of restoring Canadians' confidence in our political institutions. Too many people were beginning to say our political institutions could never come up with decisions, we could never get agreement. Some kind of consensus and agreement was necessary to restore Canadians' confidence in their political institutions and to remove a dark cloud that would continue to hang over a number of other issues if deadlock remained the order of the day.

I will not get into details. I do not have time to deal with my thesis that lack of constitutional accord was also contributing to many of our economic problems and was preventing us from coming to grips with some of them.

In a very personal sense, having been at the discussions in that week in November represented one of the proudest moments of my political life, of anything I have known. It was a time when I felt we were taking another very important symbolic step in the development of this country. We were adding to a flag and a national anthem, both of which came out of much controversy—particularly the flag. While some may still object to the flag, I think we have all come to love, respect and revere the flag of Canada and our national anthem which we sing with pride. Now we are adding a truly made-in-Canada Constitution.

This Saturday, April 17, we will be celebrating this major milestone, as the Queen proclaims this Constitution. But it really is neither a beginning nor an end of our efforts to strengthen Canada—and here I will in a more detailed way answer my friend the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick). What we have achieved is not

the end and it is not just a beginning but it is probably more of a beginning than an end. When all is said and done, we still face, as we did when we began this process a couple of years ago, the possibility of Quebec separating from Canada, Constitution or no Constitution.

As the *Toronto Star* said recently in a lead editorial that was entitled "Separatism Looms Anew": "If the PQ government is re-elected for a third term with more than 50 per cent of the vote, the government will assume it has the right to declare Quebec independent, delegates to the party's biennial congress decided on the weekend. And even if the PQ wins with fewer than half the votes cast, the party will nevertheless claim a mandate to hold a referendum on independence. It's a heads-we-win, tails-you-lose gambit."

That is, I think, ironic, not to say frustrating and disappointing. We all remember the Quebec referendum. One week after the whole country breathed a sigh of relief over the outcome, all the governments started to work in a series of meetings and efforts which would demonstrate to Quebec once and for all that all Canadians meant what they said: that a "no" vote would not just reaffirm the status quo; we were going to show our fellow citizens from Quebec we were serious about our commitment to them in the Canadian confederation.

So we launched into this two-year Constitution-making period I have been talking about. I guess, as one who participated in it, many of us thought after we got into it that it would never end or that we would never come to any kind of meaningful agreement. But as we now know we did come to an agreement on a new patriated Canadian Constitution.

However, having reached that point, who feels left out? Quebec. The very province we were jointly trying to accommodate is isolated to some degree yet again. I think it is important to say it is isolated by the choice of Mr. Lévesque and his Parti Québécois government to be sure, but it is isolated nevertheless.

I guess we would have to say this is a very frustrating chain of events. Through the constitutional exercise we have aroused the parochial and regional feelings of the west and the east on issues ranging from oil and gas to fishing rights. We have confused and perhaps even disillusioned the average Canadian everywhere who could have been forgiven for thinking we could have been better off solving things like unemployment, inflation and other problems rather than worrying about constitutions. We have left

the very target of the whole exercise, the province of Quebec or at least its government, feeling isolated now and out in left field.

So I ask, what now? I would like to put it very straight tonight. Our efforts to keep Quebec and Quebecers as an integral part of Canada must continue. Our new Canadian Constitution I believe will give us something fresh to build on, but we cannot afford to throw up our hands in despair and say Quebec will never be satisfied. Some people I know are quick to say, "Let them go." We cannot afford that. The name of the game is continued compromise and working together.

I believe if the day ever comes when the people of Quebec decide they want to separate from Canada, then we can kiss Canada goodbye. The separation of Quebec would be the first step in a slow-moving, yet I believe very real, chain reaction that would fragment forever this northern half of the continent that we call Canada. None of us would likely see this whole chain of events occur in our lifetime, but I think that end result would occur over a number of years.

I am firmly convinced that just as the provinces joined Canada one at a time after our country's formation in 1867, we could run a risk of seeing, over the course of time, the step-by-step breakup of the country if one province like Quebec decided to opt out.

9:50 p.m.

Some will say that is too dramatic. I do not think that is too dramatic. I am more convinced than ever that all Canadians and the governments we elect to represent us must recognize the situation for what it is today.

We cannot afford to throw up our hands in despair and say we can do nothing. Now is the time when we must bear down, as we have done so often before, and do what we can to make sure that our friends in Quebec stay with Canada and that Canada stays a united country.

By this, I do not mean giving in to every demand of René Lévesque and his separatists; far from it. I do mean, however, that we must continue to be conciliatory and accommodating, with the end being to demonstrate as best we can the mutual advantages to all of us, Quebecers, Ontarians and other Canadians, of maintaining a strong Canadian nation.

Many of us have had the good fortune to travel in Europe. One of my colleagues mentioned his trip to England, and I know my friend the House leader has travelled in Europe many times. We have been through countries like

Switzerland, Germany, France and Belgium, and we have been able to witness firsthand the interaction of various language groups.

We have seen the development of the European Community with its multilingual bodies like the European Parliament. These are all a vivid reminder of the healthy diversity that is present when different linguistic and cultural groups exist shoulder to shoulder, sometimes—though not always—divided by political boundaries. So too they are a reminder of the potential that exists in such situations for rivalry and even distrust and animosity.

Anyone with any social sensitivity at all has observed these things in travel abroad, and I am sure you have, Mr. Speaker, as you travelled abroad. Therefore, it is natural now to let our thoughts return home to North America where on so huge a land mass we are blessed with a sense of stability and common interest that comes from the fact that we have only two international boundaries dividing our political jurisdictions on a land mass much larger than Europe.

Here in Canada, just as in Europe and elsewhere in the world, we have a built-in diversity arising from language and cultural differences. It is a diversity that can and does enrich the lives of all those who are able and willing to experience the interaction in positive ways.

However, it is a diversity that has the potential for animosity and divisiveness, as I have said, and we have had some examples of this. We have had some experience in this regard. But we have here a diversity that is worth preserving in its own right, and worth preserving in this province for defensive reasons also, as a very important key to keeping Canada as one, well into the future.

I am sure the members of this House all know Robert Stanfield. He is a man whom I always felt would have been an outstanding Prime Minister of Canada. A few years ago, in a speech in New Brunswick, he gave more evidence of this feeling that many of us had about him with a very thoughtful analysis of some of the choices that now lie before English-speaking Canadians.

Among other things, Bob Stanfield said this: "Accommodations must be reached. They are not likely to be reached if a substantial proportion of anglophones believe that Canada is basically an English-speaking country outside of Quebec—that it would have remained so if politicians had not stirred up the French, and could be restored to such if only politicians would stop catering to the French."

Here we are, a few days before our long-sought-after Constitution is proclaimed, with a feeling among many Canadians that finally we will have a period of calm. But I am standing here in this House tonight to say that in many respects things have not really changed at all. As far as Quebec is concerned, we have to keep doing more of the same; there has to be more give and take, more patience and more willingness to demonstrate an understanding of the concerns and hopes which have been emanating from Quebec since 1867 and earlier.

There is no doubt that the Parti Québécois is still firmly committed to Quebec independence which, I emphasize, sometimes makes it difficult to keep our thinking straight. But through all the noise which arises from the PQ, let us remember first that there are many French-speaking Quebecers who remain strongly committed to Canada. However, we know they continue to have some very legitimate expectations.

Essentially, what these boil down to is one simple but fundamental request; that is, that English-speaking Canada demonstrate its acceptance of the French fact in Canada, of the fact that more than one out of four Canadian citizens have French as their mother tongue.

We are being asked, very simply and sincerely, to acknowledge first of all that Canada is officially a bilingual country—and the new Constitution does that—and that the francophone minority has special needs to ensure the survival of its language and its culture.

In terms of attitudes, this seems to me to involve two things: a sense of security and a sense of respect. Because they are a minority, francophones in Canada constantly need tangible evidence of our sensitivity and our awareness in this regard.

As the social and cultural homeland of the vast majority of French-speaking Canadians, Quebec, we are also asked to recognize, has its own special responsibility and therefore may have particular requirements that other provinces do not.

I believe that too often we have found ourselves hung up on phrases such as "special status," "dualism" or something else. What we have to ensure is that Canadian federalism in the future is flexible and supple enough to accommodate Quebec and the special characteristics of other regions also.

When we stop to think about it, several provinces, including Manitoba, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, as well as Quebec,

already have some degree of special status based on the terms under which they entered Confederation.

Quebeckers, and I mean federalist Quebecers, clearly have a legitimate case that continues to require our consideration, and personally I see nothing for any of us to be frightened of.

The Canadian dimension includes as part of itself the Quebec dimension. Without it, we would never have come into being as a nation. It remains today as an essential part of our Canadian identity to ourselves and to the world. An important aspect of this dimension today, as in the past, is language policy. Listen to what a distinguished Canadian said about this important aspect.

Mr. Nixon: Name him first.

Hon. Mr. Wells: No. I am not going to name him first. I am going to let the honourable member listen to the words this distinguished Canadian said.

Mr. Roy: Another quiz program?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Yes. See if you can get this now.

Mr. Nixon: R. B. Bennett.

Hon. Mr. Wells: No. This distinguished Canadian did not die in a bathtub, because he is still living.

I begin the quotation: "Now, to those, and I don't think they are numerous, who keep on talking about what they think would be the gain to Canada of elimination of the second official language, I have only this to say, that they are whittling at the foundation of Confederation, because apart from that section of the British North America Act, there would have been no Confederation and without it today Confederation would not have survived."

Mr. Roy: John Robarts.

Hon. Mr. Wells: No. You do not win. Someone else can ring a gong. The member would probably never guess who it is, but it was in an address to the Empire Club of Canada on April 4, 1946, by the Honourable Donald Fleming, who later became Canada's Minister of Finance.

Mr. Nixon: God rest his soul.

Hon. Mr. Wells: He is still living. At that time he was a very brand-new member of Parliament, I believe. They were very profound words that he said. If members are interested, they can read his whole speech of 1946 to the Empire Club. Many of the things he said ring very true today.

10 p.m.

The province of Ontario—its government and its citizens—has a special responsibility in all this. As the most populous province and as the province that is, so to speak, at the very core of Confederation, we have to show maturity and leadership. We have to show the way.

I know that many of our citizens have grown weary of hearing this, but our responsibility and challenge in this province, and I say this very sincerely because I believe it, is to demonstrate continually to the people of Quebec, in a whole variety of ways, that we accept them and understand their feelings and aspirations and that we are able and willing to continue to listen and react to those feelings in tangible ways.

As I said a few minutes ago, it is not a simple thing to achieve how to get that message through to the people of Quebec, as distinct to getting it through to the Parti Québécois government.

At Queen's Park, we have spent more time than I can remember trying to come up with ways to get the message through. Sometimes we feel that it is futile; that no matter what we do it never seems to be enough or, worse, that nobody seems to really care. But deep down we know it is the only answer and our only long-term hope. So we keep on going one step at a time, doing what we can and, surprisingly, seeing some payoffs, not only from Quebec but also right here in our home province of Ontario as well as down east and across the west.

For ourselves, we must never forget that with more than 500,000 Franco-Ontarians, we have almost as many French-speaking residents in Ontario as the total populations of provinces like New Brunswick and Newfoundland.

In truth, we can look back with pride over the past 10 or 15 years in Ontario to see what tremendous strides have been taken in the area of services to our French-speaking residents.

Mr. Roy: Easy.

Hon. Mr. Wells: No, I am not going to be easy, because we can look back with pride at what we have achieved.

We have made strides which have been in themselves a major benefit, I believe, not only to Franco-Ontarians but to all the people of this province. We have also made strides which have demonstrated to people elsewhere in Canada that Ontario is able and willing to show the kind of Canada-first leadership that is so badly needed in this country.

From next to nothing, we have built a thriving French-language secondary school system that now serves more than 30,000 francophone young

people all across this province. This, of course, is in addition to the 74,000 pupils receiving their instruction in French at the elementary school level.

We have seen a steady increase in the number of English-speaking elementary school children who are at last getting a real chance to begin to learn French as a second language at a level that will enable them to grow with the language and in a way that will be meaningful and lasting.

Since 1979, there has been a guaranteed right for anyone in the province to a criminal trial in French. As of this month, the civil courts in Metropolitan Toronto and the francophone regions of the province will be able to operate in both languages. In the last few years we have built a capacity to provide a range of French-language services in virtually all the offices of the Ontario government in those areas of the province where the bulk of French-speaking Ontarians reside.

I have not got it here, but when we get into the estimates I would like to read to my friends a little paragraph from Max Yalden's latest report, because there is a very interesting thing in it that I think indicates in the Essex county survey they did that in the Ontario government services the francophone capacity exceeded that of the federal people in Essex county by quite a broad extent.

Mr. Roy: That's great, but you guys held back for seven years.

Hon. Mr. Wells: No. There is the problem. The honorable member keeps trying to cast the idea that nothing is ever done over here, when slowly and steadily—

Mr. Roy: It is done grudgingly.

Mr. Nixon: Kicking and screaming.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Slowly and steadily it has continued to be done. We have never been dragging; it has all moved ahead.

Mr. Roy: I would like to go and celebrate the weekend with you on the Constitution. Why didn't you guarantee the rights there?

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps you can do that.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Slowly and steadily we are guaranteeing and doing those things that will serve these people in this province. There is a tendency in this House and elsewhere to criticize this government for the constitutional obligations and the comprehensive legal framework or legislation it has not accepted. What is unfortunately ignored are the real moral obliga-

tions we have accepted and the comprehensive programs we have been and are developing.

Mr. Nixon: They have been reluctant.

Hon. Mr. Wells: We have never been reluctant.

Mr. Nixon: They have never been granted as a right.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Let me ask something. It is very interesting. They have a couple of members from Essex county. Have they ever put one foot inside the new French-language school in Essex county?

Mr. Nixon: Did your candidate support those schools?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I do not care whether or not my party's candidate supported the school. This government, with the assistance of the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk, voted for a bill which his colleagues voted against. His members in Essex county boycotted the opening of the school. He wants to have it both ways. He cannot have it both ways. I am pleased—

Mr. Nixon: Don't talk like the Premier.

Mr. Roy: Ask how your friend Mitchell got elected.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I am sure we will get back to that when we deal with it in the estimates.

I am pleased to report this government's capacity to fulfil its program commitment has been greatly increased in recent months. What is more, our progress and our organization have attracted the provinces, I am happy to say, of New Brunswick and Manitoba, which have come here to study our system and what we are doing for the Franco-Ontarians, because it is the kind of thing they want to emulate as an example of the way in which they can effectively deliver French-language services.

In addition to the core of people in the office of the co-ordinator working full-time on French-language services, there are now French-language service co-ordinators in the ministries of Health, Community and Social Services, Tourism and Recreation, Citizenship and Culture, Labour, Municipal Affairs and Housing, Consumer and Commercial Relations and in the Ministry of the Attorney General.

As I said earlier, this government has built on its existing guarantees to provide a criminal trial in French to anyone in the province and by extending its bilingual services in the civil courts as of this month. This capacity will now cover

areas containing more than 80 per cent of the francophones in Ontario.

The translation of selected statutes is proceeding quickly. More than 70 of the most important statutes are now available in French, including the Highway Traffic Act and the Education Act. I am happy to report that the French-language College of Agricultural Technology in Alfred opened its doors last September and is now providing specialized instruction to more than 50 young Franco-Ontarians.

Mr. Nixon: We owe a good deal to the member for Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria) for that.

Mr. Roy: You should brag about opening an office in Brussels as well.

Mr. Speaker: Would the member for Ottawa East allow the minister to continue?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Don't worry, we will get to talking about that in the estimates too.

The French-language secondary school in Penetanguishene, l'Ecole secondaire le Caron, is now completed and the official opening will take place on April 22. I can assure Franco-Ontarians and this House that the government's policy and budget commitment to the expansion of French-language services is a high-priority one. Our commitment is real. We are determined to ensure that it is based on a solid capacity to deliver. We shall continue to build and expand, steadily and without diversion, the foundation carefully and firmly built primarily over the past 15 years.

10:10 p.m.

Our primary motivation shall continue to be the justice of providing more and better services for Ontario's French-speaking population and for all people of Ontario. I believe it would be an error to proceed as if every action was in response and reaction to the Parti Québécois. Such has never been the case in the past; I suggest to this House that it should not be in the future.

Mr. Roy: Unfortunately, you are wrong there.

Hon. Mr. Wells: If the member will wait a minute to hear what I have to say now.

Having said that, all of us must be acutely aware in this present environment that our actions and our words can be and often are taken as signs of intent and commitment, particularly throughout the rest of Canada.

Personally, I strongly believe that what we do in Ontario will—and I emphasize and underscore the word “will”—ultimately have a major

bearing on the long-term political outcome in Quebec. Yet, as I said earlier, it is sometimes very frustrating to get the message through, no matter what we do.

Mr. Nixon: Your actions in the past have quite a lot to do with it.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Let me say this—and I was there so I can personally report this firsthand—at the meeting in Montreal a few years ago, even as Premier Lévesque was reading a council of ministers of education report on French-language education in Canada, I recall that he looked at it and said he was surprised to learn the kind of job Ontario had done in the area of French-language education, and that most of the francophones who wished French-language education were served in Ontario.

Mr. Nixon: Yes, but you were kicking and screaming.

Hon. Mr. Wells: We said that we had told him that and he said, “I know you said that, but I was never really sure.” The report proved it to him. That shows how hard it is to get the message across.

Mr. Roy: That is because of the actions of the Premier (Mr. Davis).

Mr. Nixon: As long as he is Premier there will be no French rights, only favours; not rights but favours.

Hon. Mr. Wells: No, no, no; the Premier never said that.

Mr. Nixon: Sure he did.

Hon. Mr. Wells: The Premier would support the words that I have just said. What we have done—

Mr. Nixon: Where was he when the bill was before the Legislature? He was down in a press conference saying that as long as he was Premier—

Mr. Speaker: Will the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk please allow the minister to continue.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I spoke on the bill and the member is welcome to read my speech again.

Mr. Roy: And the Premier pulled the rug out from under you.

Hon. Mr. Wells: No, he did not. The Premier is one of the great friends Franco-Ontarians have in this province. Over the years, heads of various Conservative governments have laid the foundation for the fine things that have been done. I challenge the members to join us in getting the message through to Quebec instead of always putting through a negative message.

Mr. Roy: How can you expect that when you fight elections like the one you did in Carleton?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Do not worry about the past. The problems are here now. I am saying tonight that the signals that go beaming to Quebec from Ontario will ultimately, I hope, reach the people of Quebec. We are up against those situations where people who ought to know the realities of Ontario do not know.

I am not going to dispute that they have heard about some of the negative things, but I have run into people who have come up here and who really do not believe there is a French-language school system in Ontario.

Mr. Roy: That is your own fault.

Hon. Mr. Wells: All I am saying to the members is, let us forget about some of the negative things and start telling them we have done a great job in French-language education in Ontario.

Mr. Roy: I would love to tell them, if you would give them some rights.

Hon. Mr. Wells: What hope is there in reaching the average Quebecers—the men and women who can do their own thinking, who have their own views of Canada and who will continue to support federalism and oppose separatism—if there is any evidence that the rest of Canada does not give a damn? What we have to do is get the message across, first of all through person to person, community to community, business to business contacts.

Mr. Nixon: When was the last time you asked French parliamentarians up here? Ten years ago.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I am not talking about parliamentarians. I happen to believe the message will not get through just by government to government interaction. What has got to be done is that Canadians from every walk of life from Ontario and the rest of Canada, visiting Quebec, doing business in the province, writing to their friends and their relatives, have to get the message across that we do care about them, we do want them to stay in Canada, and we do serve the Franco-Ontarian population in this province.

The message we must get across is that we are concerned, we care and we want them to stay part of Canada. We must tell them that we in Ontario want to welcome them as neighbours in our province and make them feel at home here in every possible way, and that we do give a darn about keeping Canada united.

Let us not fall into the trap of doing nothing in

Ontario, when our conscience tells us we really should, because we think there is no way of getting the message through to Quebecers. The challenge of attitudes, understanding and commitment, however, not only involves individual Canadians but also involves their governments. I think we have a right to expect all governments to make our federal system work effectively, to seek consensus and to accept compromise.

I regret that the Premier of Quebec is not attending any of the ceremonies this weekend. I regret even more deeply that he has asked the Queen's representative in that province not to attend, and I guess out of respect for the request that was made of him the Queen's representative has decided not to attend the official ceremonies.

Mr. Nixon: He is going as a privy councillor.

Hon. Mr. Wells: He is going, however, as a privy councillor, and I think that is—

Mr. Piché: Very unfortunate for Quebec and very unfortunate for Canada.

Mr. Nixon: Now we are hearing from the real voice of French Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I believe the Queen's representative should have gone to all the ceremonies. However—

Mr. Nixon: The Queen's representative should do what his principal adviser tells him to.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I want to say to my friends that this government will work with the present government of Quebec. We will rebuild the bridges—because they have become a little tattered in the last couple of years—between our two provinces. In our mind there is no reason the historical relationship, as my friend the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk has also—

Mr. Nixon: Since 1971 they have been betrayed.

Hon. Mr. Wells: No, no, no; not since 1971, since 1976—

Mr. Nixon: In 1971 you let them down at Victoria, and they have never forgiven you.

Hon. Mr. Wells: My friend is absolutely wrong. Those bridges were as strong as ever until 1976 and the election of the Parti Québécois. Those bridges were there in a very strong way. They existed between men like Mercier and Mowat, Taschereau and Ferguson, Duplessis and Frost, Johnson and Robarts, and Bourassa and Davis.

Mr. Roy: No.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I tell you, yes.

Mr. Nixon: You are leaving Hepburn out of that list.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Hepburn was there, too.

Mr. Nixon: You had better believe it.

Hon. Mr. Wells: He was there too, yes.

Mr. Roy: There were no bridges built by Davis.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I have listened to the member put that proposition to this House many times and I want to say unequivocally he is absolutely wrong. There were numerous bridges between this government and the Bourassa government and the ministers of that government, and—

Mr. Nixon: The Minister of Education may have had a few dinners with the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wells: No, no.

Mr. Roy: They went to the winter carnival once; that's not building a bridge.

Mr. Nixon: And he couldn't make it down the toboggan slide.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I will never get through to the members opposite. All I can say is they do not know and they are absolutely wrong.

The bridges were there, and they remained even after 1976 in the early days of the Parti Québécois, but once the referendum campaign started and the members on all sides of this House took the attitude they did—and the members opposite took that attitude the same as we did, they are on record in the constitutional debate—we all took the attitude that we really wanted no truck or trade with the policies of the Parti Québécois. All I am saying is we have to rebuild those bridges at the present time. They have become a little tattered, particularly since 1977-78.

10:20 p.m.

Mr. Roy: Premier Davis is as responsible for that as anyone.

Hon. Mr. Wells: That statement is nonsense.

Mr. Speaker: The minister will ignore the interjections, please.

Hon. Mr. Wells: How can he say that the Premier of this province, who is one of the outstanding Canadians, is to blame for something when he stands up and says the things he does that may have offended one of the persons who want to destroy and wreck this country? That is a bunch of nonsense.

Mr. Roy: Will the minister yield the floor? If I may, I will tell you how he did it. When the Premier of this province so barbarically vetoed

the bill I proposed in 1978, when the Premier fights an election on bilingualism like he did in Carleton in 1979-80, and when the Premier takes the approach he has towards Franco-Ontarians in this charter, that is how he breaks down the bridges. That is why he has no respect and no credibility in Quebec.

Mr. Speaker: The honourable member for Ottawa East has had his chance to make his views known. Please let the minister continue.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I thank my friend for his interjection. I hate to tell him I seem to recall members of the Quebec government saying to me: "Look, it does not matter a darn to us whether the Albert Roy bill is passed or not. It will have no effect on us or what we do."

Mr. Roy: Sure, that's someone from the PQ saying that.

Hon. Mr. Wells: All I am saying is I have been talking about building bridges with the people, and what we do there is one thing, but the bridges with the government is a different thing. The PQ government does not give a darn and will not be affected in what it does or in its attitude by the member's bill or a French-language services bill or a secondary school in Penetang.

Mr. Nixon: Be more careful.

Hon. Mr. Wells: The government will not be.

Mr. Nixon: Why should you align yourself with separatism?

Hon. Mr. Wells: I am not aligning myself with the separatists. What I am saying is we must rebuild the bridges. I have suggested that notwithstanding our very deep and truly felt feelings towards the policies of the Parti Québécois government, it is a legitimately elected provincial government in Canada and therefore we have to rebuild the bridges with it. We will work with it as a government because we believe there is no reason that kind of historic relationship cannot be built. We will participate in it.

Mr. Nixon: The Premier has never said that.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Yes, he has. What we have to ask is that the Quebec government, as a government that was solidly re-elected last year, not on a separatist policy but on a "We will give you good government" policy, should drop its reticence to take part in only those federal-provincial and interprovincial meetings in which, as they said, vital economic interests are at stake.

The government of Quebec should act as a strong provincial government within the Canadian federal system. That is all we ask. I hope the Quebec government will take part in all federal-provincial and interprovincial meetings, that ministers will meet together and that ministries will work together.

That has not been happening and part of the response to the constitutional accord was to suggest that a number of Quebec delegations should not attend meetings. Indeed, they did not. All I am calling upon them for is to take part in federal-provincial and intergovernmental meetings as a provincial government.

We want to do that, and for our part we want them to do that. We feel that is the best way the interests of Canada can be served and I hope they will accept that. I must say I have been heartened by some of the recent statements by the new Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Jacques-Yvan Morand, who seems to have softened the original position that Quebec would attend only meetings that were of vital economic importance. He perhaps has softened that stand. I hope they will forget about it completely and take part as they have in the past as Canadian provincial participants in all meetings, because that is necessary. It is necessary if we are to rebuild those bridges.

Mr. Roy: We will support you fully.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I knew the member would. For our part, this government will continue to work towards bringing Quebec into the constitutional consensus at some time and we are going to continue to demonstrate our commitment to the delivery of French-language services in Ontario.

In closing, while talking about the Constitution and some of the things that occurred as we worked up to the accord and talking about the challenge of Quebec because that is probably what has been uppermost in our minds after the accord, of which Quebec was not a part, there still remains with us the challenge of western Canada.

The fact is that the west has for the first time elected a western separatist. There are still feelings of alienation in the western provinces. There is still a desire for more say and more input in what happens at the centre and what happens in the federal government. There are all kinds of things that must be dealt with there and we are going to have to face and deal with those.

I believe those things can all be dealt with in a much better atmosphere and on a much better basis; the basis being the new Constitution and the second round of constitutional discussions. In those discussions, very soon, we will come to grips with the concerns of our native people, and that must be done.

I hope we will get on and deal with the division of power problems that face us; that we will take a look and come up, finally, with a proposal for a reformed upper House to replace the Senate. I hope we will be able to study the matter of some form of proportional representation in the House of Commons, something which is going to be necessary to bridge some of the feelings in this country.

On the eve of the proclamation of our new Constitution, I would like to just close with a quotation because it is well and right that we should listen again to the words of a great Canadian, who left in these words a message which well fits the occasion, and precis and summarizes the remarks which I have been making tonight. The great Canadian was former Governor General Georges P. Vanier, who in his book *Only to Serve* wrote these words:

"Each of us can make his own contribution to our country's unity. May I repeat what I have said so often. We are 10 provinces. I am proud of each one of them; proud of their inhabitants, but not always happy that the boundaries between the provinces at times look more like barriers than happy meeting places. Let us know one another; that will lead to understanding. I want to be known abroad and at home as a Canadian,

not only as a citizen of one of the provinces. I pray to God that we may all go forward hand in hand. We cannot run the risk of this great country falling into pieces."

That is the challenge that faces all of us, and I am sure we feel it is one worthy of us accepting.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, the hour is very late, and before the adjournment of the debate I wanted to make a couple of remarks on the speech from the government House leader and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, before returning tomorrow to my remarks on the throne speech.

I want to say I enjoyed listening to his remarks. They were as thoughtful a summary as we have heard from the government in some time on where we stand in this Confederation. All of us will be welcoming the proclamation of our new Constitution with a real sense of joy and relief, as an end to this part of the constitutional process, and hopefully, a beginning of a new era for Canada.

I do not want to be provocative, but the remarks from the government House leader should be required reading, certainly for the Premier (Mr. Davis), for the members of cabinet, the back-benchers and some of the Tories from around the province. I certainly endorse a great many of the sentiments and only wish some of the back-benchers did.

Before I get into my remarks, I notice we are very close to the end of sitting.

On motion by Mr. Wrye, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 10:31 p.m.

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No. 25

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)



Second Session, Thirty-Second Parliament
Friday, April 16, 1982

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC



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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Friday, April 16, 1982

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers.

MOTION

NEW CONSTITUTION

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, on this day, Friday, April 16, I know that the members of the Legislative Assembly, particularly on behalf of all those we represent, the people of Ontario, would want to officially mark this historic weekend which will culminate just before noon tomorrow in the signing, by Her Majesty the Queen of Canada, of the proclamation which will proclaim the Constitution Act, 1982.

By this action Canada will have its new Constitution, which can be amended in this country and which in all aspects envisages and suggests to us what this country is really all about.

Hon. Mr. Wells moved, seconded by Mr. Nixon and Mr. Foulds, that an humble address be presented to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, as follows:

"Most Gracious Sovereign:

"We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario in session assembled beg leave to express the warm affection and loyalty of the people of Ontario and to thank Your Majesty for your gracious act in personally presenting to the people of Canada their own Constitution by proclaiming the Constitution Act, 1982."

And that this address be suitably engrossed under the great seal of Ontario and forwarded to Her Majesty through the Secretary of State for Canada.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues, I want to express our support for the resolution. It will be an important and, in fact, grand weekend as Her Majesty brings our Constitution to this nation.

We know, of course, that the actual statute will remain an act of the Parliament at Westminster, but that from this time on we in Canada have full responsibility for our own future. I think we can be proud that members of this Legislature uniformly supported the initiative of the government of Canada and the Premiers in

moving towards the patriation of the Constitution. Although we had a number of opportunities to express our individual views as the matter came to maturity, it did not become a divisive political issue here. I believe we can all take some pride in that connection.

Mr. Speaker, you may have been present in the House last night when the mover of the motion, the Minister for Intergovernmental Affairs (Mr. Wells), indicated clearly in his speech the steps that led, through negotiation, to the final act of Parliament in Canada and to the acts of Parliament at Westminster. To those who were not present, I would recommend that they examine the minister's speech in Hansard. He had some things to say about the responsibilities that we as members of the Legislature and the government of Ontario face both now and in the future to recognize not only the bilingual aspect of our nation but also other responsibilities devolving upon us now that our Constitution has been patriated.

It is an honour to second this motion.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, we in the New Democratic Party would like to add our expression of warmest welcome to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on this historic visit to Canada. At this time, when the pressures of the international scene on Her Majesty are great indeed in both a personal and a public sense, as one of her own sons is involved, it is fitting that the people of Canada be made aware that she welcomes her responsibilities as Queen of Canada. It may well be said that the hallmark of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II has been the unhesitating sense of unstinting responsibility she has brought to the changing and challenging role of the monarchy in the last half of the 20th century.

Knowing the acumen of the Premier (Mr. Davis) and whoever may succeed him, I suspect we may well have the pleasure of a visit to our province from Prince Charles, Princess Diana and their offspring before 1985. I want to assure this House and the people of Ontario that the welcome of the members of the New Democratic Party will be as loyal and sincere then as they are now.

May I add that the dedication of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II inspires affection, loyalty

and admiration in all of us. It is therefore with a sense of deepest honour that, on behalf of my colleagues in the New Democratic Party caucus, I join with all members of the Ontario Legislature to welcome Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to Canada.

Motion agreed to.

QUEEN'S PARK TRAFFIC TRAP

10:10 a.m.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I rise on a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker; it may seem a little trivial after the mutual address we have just agreed to, but I did want to bring it to the attention of the House.

Last night as I was leaving the Legislature after the adjournment at six o'clock, I followed a motorcycle policeman. They are using our parking lot as a place to lie and wait surreptitiously, as police sometimes do, for people who may be making potential traffic violations at the corner of Wellesley Street and Queen's Park Crescent.

Perhaps because of my own paranoia on this matter, I do not like the notion of our property being used as a hiding place for police to undertake their activities. I want to know what our policy is in the Legislature. What is the method for deciding when and where the police will use our property for this kind of activity? Will the Speaker please report back to us?

It seems to me our reputation as politicians is bad enough today in Ontario and in Canada, let alone being known as a basic speed trap and traffic trap for the constituents we serve.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much. This matter has been drawn to my attention. I would like to thank the member personally for making me aware of this situation, because I have inadvertently violated that thoroughfare on many occasions.

Mr. Nixon: Surely not.

Mr. Speaker: As, I am sure, everybody else in this House has.

ORAL QUESTIONS

PHYSICIANS' SERVICES

Mr. Peterson: There is no question that Friday is always the strangest day in this House, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Health (Mr. Grossman) now that he has returned today. It is obvious that he has put

great faith in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario to provide the discipline that may be needed in view of these rotating walkouts and the subsequent inconvenience and hardship to a number of patients across the province.

What is the minister's opinion when a member of the college, of the disciplinary body, participates in those walkouts? Does he not feel he is putting the college and some of the individual members there in a virtually intolerable position with a conflict of interest? It is not reasonable for the minister to expect that they can rule dispassionately and objectively on some of the very difficult matters they have been asked to rule upon. I refer particularly to the case of a Dr. Thomson in Ottawa.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition should remember that of the 29 members in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, six of them are appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council specifically as protectors of the public interest. So representatives of the public are sitting around the table when the disciplinary actions are taken. They are there to monitor the day-to-day operations of the college in matters such as this. I am satisfied the public interest is protected through persons who are not physicians.

Second, I would say the college to date has been most helpful to the citizens of Ontario during this week. We have referred a number of calls to it; most of them relate to matters of refusal to renew prescriptions. In almost every case, after the college has reviewed it and called the doctors who had refused to give the renewal by telephone, the doctors agreed to provide that telephone renewal of prescription.

Through this week, which has been an unusual one and in some cases a difficult one for some patients, the college has been most co-operative and has given no evidence the members are failing to live up to their responsibilities.

Some members of the College of Physicians and Surgeons are seen to participate because they are surgeons whose surgery was cancelled because of the action taken by others, such as anaesthetists. To that extent, some of the members of the college who are thought to have participated in the actions did not; they were, in a sense, just caught up in actions taken by others.

In any case, I would only confirm that to date we are most satisfied by the activities of the college. We will certainly discuss the situation with the members as the days unfold, and I hope not too many more days will unfold. Again, I will reaffirm my high regard for the way the

college has handled this difficult matter to date. Speaking as Minister of Health, I would report to the House that I am very satisfied the public is being protected through that vehicle at present.

Mr. Peterson: I have a very high regard too, it is the impossible position that the minister is putting them in that I suspect will result in some great conflicts and some very serious moral dilemmas for a number of those doctors who are asked to sit in judgement on their peers.

Because the minister is now monitoring the college's operations to make sure they are doing what he wants them to do, which is to keep their eyes on the situation and discipline where necessary, he has now chosen a new tactic, a selective intervention. I refer to the situation involving the Hospital for Sick Children, where he expressed a particular concern because of the unique nature of that hospital. The minister is taking it upon himself to do direct referrals to the college to make sure there are no violations.

As Minister of Health, understanding his genuine concern for the plight of children whose surgery may be cancelled, how can he distinguish between that and the plight of a 20-year-old, a 40-year-old or an 82-year-old whose surgery has been cancelled or postponed? How does he judge between the relative anxiety experienced by a young person and an old person?

How can he, as minister, fairly administer this entire system when he is now asking for special favours from Sick Children's Hospital and trying to call in a favour from Doctors' Hospital while there are another 240 or so hospitals across this province that he has not been in a position or prepared to act on?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Let me say to the Leader of the Opposition that I know he has relied on press reports for some of his information.

Let me use the opportunity, instead of rising on a point of personal privilege as I was going to and as I am not wont to do very often in this House, to make it absolutely, totally, 100 per cent clear that I have not contacted the Doctors' Hospital with regard to the action that is being taken there. I am not familiar with what actions they are or are not intending to take there. I have not made any special request to the Doctors' Hospital, advertently or inadvertently, directly or indirectly, in any way whatsoever.

Secondly, I might also take this opportunity to point out that yesterday, in my absence, the Leader of the Opposition suggested to the Premier (Mr. Davis) that I had used the word "barbaric." I had been quoted, he said, as using

the word "barbaric" in describing some of those actions. That is what it says in yesterday's Hansard. I want to make it clear that this was not my word. There were no newspaper reports that used the word "barbaric" with quotation marks around it, quoting the minister. I think it is important to correct the record, because I have been most careful not to use language like that in describing activities that have been undertaken.

I have no apologies whatsoever to make to this House or to the Leader of the Opposition for saying that I believe the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children, being the kind of institution that it is, should have been exempted from any job action taken by the doctors. That would have been appropriate and right for them to do, not only because it involves children, because surgical procedures in other hospitals involve children, but also because of the special nature of the activities carried on in that hospital.

The Sick Children's Hospital deals with a lot of referrals of children from other hospitals. In many cases they have children who have come in from all parts of the province, indeed from all parts of Canada or the world, for surgical operations which in some cases could be deemed to have been elective and to have fallen into the category where they could have been delayed another week, even though the youngster has flown in 1,000 miles.

I have no apologies to make for saying that the Sick Children's Hospital is a special and unique hospital in our system.

Mr. Peterson: It's very good public relations too, let's not deny that.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Let us not drop to the level the Leader of the Opposition wants to drop to in this—

Mr. Speaker: Just ignore the interjections, please.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Let me also take this opportunity to say that the Leader of the Opposition has made a point several times—and again in his last question, so I will stay on the question—that we are asking doctors to sit in judgement of their peers. I must say that unless the Leader of the Opposition wants to rise in this House and say that he has no confidence in the college and in that procedure whereby certain doctors run for election to have the opportunity to sit in judgement upon their peers, then he has to and ought to support the current government position. To do anything else means he is saying, and let us make it quite clear, that he believes

the self-governing rights passed and given to the College of Physicians and Surgeons by the Legislature of Ontario are inappropriate. That is what he is saying when he says we should not have doctors sitting in judgement of their peers. As a member of the law society, he also ought to remember that he and I, in dealing with our disciplinary body, elect people to sit on our disciplinary body.

10:20 a.m.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: They stand up and they are prepared to say—the member does not think it works well? Does he think the College of Physicians and Surgeons works well?

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Yes or no? Does he have confidence in them? Have the courage to stand up and indicate you do or do not—

Mr. Peterson: I would be honoured to respond, on a point of privilege, to the minister—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Port Arthur with a supplementary.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, does the minister not feel that it is his obligation under standing order 26(a) to give us a full and complete statement of the state of negotiations between the Ontario Medical Association and the government? Does the minister not recall saying that he would find job action or strike or whatever at the Hospital for Sick Children—and I believe I am quoting him accurately—intolerable?

Why does he tolerate the situation that exists at Sick Children's Hospital today, where that hospital normally has 22 anaesthetists on duty and today it has four on duty and two on call? Does that not signify that, in effect, a strike is taking place at Sick Children's Hospital?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, having just received criticism from the Liberal Party for being seen to single out a specific hospital for special attention and being too hard on one hospital, I take it the honourable member is suggesting that I am being too easy on that very same hospital. Let me say very clearly that I take the situation so seriously and find it so intolerable that we have referred each and every instance to the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

I have written the college, asking it to review each and every disposition of elective surgery at the Sick Children's Hospital. I repeat—and I am sure the member at least, if not the Leader of the

Opposition, will agree—that the college ought to exercise and likely will exercise its due responsibility in this regard and therefore we have taken appropriate action.

I think it is also fair to note that the administration at the Sick Children's Hospital, together with the surgeons involved, did a number of things by way of juggling their operating schedules and expanding them earlier this week to minimize the number of elective cancellations that would happen today.

I do not know with certainty how many surgical procedures ultimately will be shown to have been cancelled, but every single case affected by the job action being taken by the doctors is being referred to the College of Physicians and Surgeons. That is because I find it intolerable and I want each and every one of them investigated.

Mr. Peterson: The minister obviously has faith that the six order in council appointees can keep check on the other 27 or 29 elected representatives on the college, that they will monitor the situation and make sure there is no conflict of interest. What I have said to him in the House before and I will say it to him again is that he, as the minister, has put an unbearable onus on the college, asking them to be involved in a labour dispute virtually, making some very critical judgements about this situation—

Hon. Mr. Grossman: No, I am not.

Mr. Peterson: Yes, you are.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would have to ask you to place your supplementary.

Mr. Peterson: I am coming to that. I want to say to the minister that he has put them in a situation where it is going to be very difficult for them to rule dispassionately. The case of Dr. Thomson is a perfect example of that. The minister meanders forward blindly from day to day, hoping it just will not get out of hand with, as I see it, no plan.

I want to know what he is going to do for some of the specific people involved, because now we are seeing examples across the province of people who are experiencing genuine hardship. Walter Napier, a senior citizen living in Windsor, called his doctor to seek a repeat of a prescription necessary to his health and was told these things were no longer done over the telephone—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. "Is the minister aware?"

Mr. Peterson: I am going to ask what he is going to do about Mr. Napier's case.

Mr. Speaker: Just a minute. If you would phrase it in such a way perhaps—

Mr. Riddell: He did. He asked the minister what he is going to do.

Mr. Speaker: He has not come around to that yet. "Is the minister aware," and then go ahead.

Mr. Peterson: Is the minister aware that a cab fare to the doctor's office for this gentleman would be \$5 or \$6 each time, which he cannot afford?

Is the minister aware of Mr. Richardson, who is currently on sick leave and is being treated for nerve problems in Niagara Falls? His wife is working in the interim. A psychiatrist told her he would not renew a prescription over the phone. He is unable to drive and get there himself, all adding to his distress. Is the minister aware of that and what is he going to do about it?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The Leader of the Opposition has found a unique way of repeating the question. I know he has been having some difficulty in thinking where to come from on this issue. I have answered that question several times before. If the Speaker will allow me to answer the question again, I will be delighted to take some more time.

First, I am not aware of those specific cases, because I have been doing other things than answering the phone at the Ministry of Health to refer those cases to the college. Second, if the member is aware of those cases, I am sure he has exercised his responsibility and forwarded them to the College of Physicians and Surgeons. Or has he? If they are so urgent, and I suspect they are—

Mr. Nixon: He is just bringing them to the attention of the Minister of Health. That's what he is elected to do. He is calling them to your attention. You are the minister.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Unless he got them just before question period, he had lots of time to call the college.

Mr. Nixon: Oh, baloney! What makes you the judge?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: That is exactly the point. The legislation—

Mr. Nixon: You are elected as Minister of Health, and he is questioning you.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the minister please resume his seat? A new question; the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have always believed the minister misjudged the state of the medical profession dramatically when he imposed

his three-year term. I also believe he has misjudged the militancy of the doctors.

Mr. Speaker: Order. A new question, please.

Mr. Peterson: I come today to suggest a specific solution. As the minister is aware, Dr. Moran referred to the terms and conditions imposed upon the Ontario Medical Association as a long, dark tunnel. Apart from the money angle in the dispute, obviously the length of it at a time of highly uncertain inflation is of great concern to a number of doctors.

Why does the minister not change his position, use his interim position of an 11 per cent increase for the next six months on condition the doctors come back to the bargaining table and stop the rotating walkouts, get back to negotiating in good faith and work this out in a negotiated, reasonable way before we have to take more dramatic action through this Legislature? The minister backs off and they back off. Why does he not do something responsible?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, the last time I looked, we had given them an 11 per cent increase. When I left my office this morning, the negotiations were to resume today at 2:30 p.m., negotiations having taken place yesterday afternoon and the negotiators having agreed to resume this afternoon.

Needless to say, I believe the OMA should not have undertaken the job action in the first place. But with the resumption of negotiations, indeed with this government's offer by way of a statement made originally and a letter sent a week ago yesterday to the OMA to resume negotiations, I believe the OMA should have said clearly to its members, "Let us withhold job action until the negotiations have resumed and are once again concluded." They chose not to do that.

Every point the Leader of the Opposition raised in his question has been dealt with by this government in exactly the way he has suggested. We have given them their increase, we have invited them back to the negotiating table and we have suggested to them the rotating job actions ought to be stopped. They have chosen not to do that.

Mr. Peterson: I know what they have chosen to do. I also know they have not chosen to follow the minister's advice in the circumstances. What I am suggesting is that the minister back off from the three-year unilateral imposition of a deal to a more temporary situation for three or six months on condition that they come back to the negotiating table and stop the walkouts. The

minister should try to resolve this thing in a peaceful and civilized way to prevent hardship to patients right across the province.

The minister has not responded to my question. Why does he not back off the three-year terms? If he shows some flexibility in this situation, perhaps it can be resolved.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Is the Leader of the Opposition suggesting the OMA has been more flexible than the government in this situation?

Mr. Peterson: I am not suggesting anything of the kind.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I know he is not suggesting anything of the kind. He has not suggested anything. He would not even comment on whether 34 per cent was adequate.

Mr. Speaker: Just address yourself to the question, please.

10:30 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: With respect, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition is suggesting I ought to be more flexible in the negotiations.

Mr. Peterson: I am not suggesting anything of the kind.

Mr. Speaker: Just refer to the question, please.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The point I am making is we have said, at each and every stage, that we would prefer negotiations to continue. When the doctors suggested that further negotiations after April 1 would be helpful but they would not make the first phone call, this government took the first step and invited them back to the negotiating table. Not only did this government say last Thursday that we were prepared to have the negotiators meet last Monday, but that we were prepared to have that occur without any preconditions attached, so as to indicate our flexibility.

Once again, we indicated we were making all the moves. Not only did the OMA not meet last Monday or Tuesday, it did not want to meet, or could not meet, until yesterday. We attached no preconditions to resuming negotiations because we did not want to inhibit any opportunity the doctors had to come back to the negotiating table. If I had said, "You stop the job action and we will go back to the bargaining table," there is no doubt they would have demanded we go back to the bargaining table under any circumstances, and the member would have criticized us for holding them up to blackmail and refusing to negotiate with them except on our terms.

This government has done everything possi-

ble to resume and continue negotiations. We have been flexible. As I have indicated, if the member has had an opportunity to read this morning's newspaper, and I know he has, then he knows that this government was willing to discuss a one-year agreement, a two-year agreement and a three-year agreement. We went back to a two-year agreement and, ultimately, three years at the request of the OMA.

The OMA negotiators know very well all of the options that are available to them, that were available to them three weeks ago, available to them two weeks ago and still available to them this afternoon. I hope and believe that is why they are back to the negotiating table. I find it a difficult proposition for the member to put that this government has been inflexible.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, when the hospital workers went on strike a year ago this government brought the full force of the law against them. Yet today our information is that there is a strike of anaesthetists at the Toronto Sick Children's Hospital. My question to the minister is, if it is illegal for hospital workers in this province to go on strike, why is it not professional misconduct for doctors to withdraw medical services as part of a bargaining tactic?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, hospital workers in that situation obviously were employees who made certain decisions to break the law and were found to have broken the law. Whether the cases with regard to doctors involve professional misconduct, we are moving as expeditiously in this matter with regard to having the doctors in front of the appropriate tribunal under law as we did with the hospital workers. It is a pretty equivalent situation.

Mr. McClellan: Why is their strike not professional misconduct?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: In each instance, we have taken all of the evidence and moved immediately before the appropriate tribunal.

Mr. Foulds: You mean the hospital workers were essential; the doctors are not?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: If the member wishes to put the proposition that the appropriate tribunal, as set up under the legislation passed by this assembly, is not the appropriate tribunal then that is quite a different issue. I want to make it clear that we are moving as quickly in this case as we moved in the hospital workers case, and in each case in front of the appropriate tribunal.

Mr. Peterson: I am trying to put a suggestion to the minister, Mr. Speaker, which he does not

want to talk about. He wants to talk about some other—

Mr. Speaker: May I suggest that you could phrase it, "Would the minister agree?"

Mr. Peterson: Let me put it through you, Mr. Speaker, and perhaps you can assist him in understanding and then answering this question.

It seems to me that if the minister was prepared to back off the three-year term on the condition that the doctors stop rotating walk-outs immediately, both sides backing out—and to respond to his original charges, frankly, from what I can observe, I think both sides have been kind of childish in this matter—then he may have some new grounds to at least start the negotiation process, both sides having given something, and hopefully resolve this by way of negotiation at the end of that expiry period, be it three months or six months.

That is a constructive suggestion towards solving this thing rather than seeing the minister involved in a great game of trying to mobilize public opinion through the various oblique and overt ways that he employs, as well as the doctors running ads in the newspapers and everybody wasting a lot of energy trying to mobilize public opinion and get involved in a great public fight where the patients will be the victims.

Surely the minister sees that. Surely there is some room to move, to get back to the bargaining table and negotiate. There is room to give. Is it not his responsibility as the man in charge to take the lead in that?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: May I say I know it is easy for the Leader of the Opposition to stand up and say, "You are both wrong in this instance." But I have to say I have a responsibility. I have stood in this House on other matters where he and others have had the luxury of saying, "What are you doing about—"

Mr. Peterson: I would be happy to change places with the minister.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The member complains to the Speaker about the length of my answers and he will not sit there and listen to them.

I have had the responsibility of standing in this House before and having to explain matters to the House. The House has generally understood that negotiations cannot, in most matters, be conducted through the media and should not be conducted through the media. I have adopted that stance in the Chrysler negotiations, Massey-

Ferguson negotiations, the Volkswagen negotiations and others I have been involved in.

Obviously it would have been more comfortable for me at very many stages, particularly in this matter, to have negotiated through the media. But I have chosen not to, because ultimately my responsibility is not to make sure that in the short term the government looks good or bad on any given day during this week or next week; my responsibility is to make sure we have a medical profession in this province that feels it is treated fairly and in a responsible way by government. That is occurring in our day-to-day discussions.

For the Leader of the Opposition to be offering advice with regard to flexibility, with all due respect, strikes me with some irony since his Health critic, who has not yet found a way to ask a question relating to this strike and this job action in this House, is well on record as saying the government's original offer of 10 per cent was generous and that the doctors should accept it. That is his Health critic's position on this matter.

The Leader of the Opposition should not be up lecturing this party with regard to flexibility or telling us how to negotiate when he begins from a position where his Health critic says 10 per cent was a fair government offer. He says he will not even comment on whether 34 per cent is a reasonable offer. His former Health critic thought our 10 per cent offer was inadequate. That is where he is coming from and that is the member's problem. He has to live with it and he also has to live with his opinion of the members who serve on the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

I have to live with the medical profession and try and negotiate with them privately, not through the media or through public relations stunts, but in a responsible way. That is what we are going to do and that is why the health care system in this province will be protected.

USE OF TIME IN QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Swart: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: I want to say on behalf of myself and I think all other back-benchers, that our privileges are being abused by the length of the questions and answers of the leaders, particularly the Leader of the Opposition. According to my watch and that clock, we have spent more than 25 minutes on the first two questions. In spite of the admonition you gave them, they kept on.

You have a responsibility—I suggest this

respectfully—to shorten those answers so that back-benchers can also get some questions in during the question period. Most of the answers were simply political rhetoric and we as back-benchers have some rights in this House. I would respectfully suggest that you see we are entitled to them.

Mr. Speaker: That is a very interesting observation. The member is as aware of the standing orders as I am. I do not write them. It is the will of the House that establishes those standing orders. I interpret them and try to enforce them.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour about affirmative action. The minister will recall his speech of April 3, in which he argued the co-operative approach was the best approach and that significant and accelerating process was being made. Is he aware his own statistics indicate that in seven years only 175 programs are in place? That is an average of 25 a year.

Is he aware that to date his program has resulted in only 0.053 per cent of Ontario companies implementing affirmative action? How many years does he think would be an appropriate number of years for us to see companies in Ontario implement affirmative action programs?

10:40 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, the 175 companies represent a substantial number of employees. They are major companies. They also represent a network of employers who are supporting the program and encouraging other companies to come within the program.

Considerable progress has been made. I am still convinced that affirmative action is the route to go. There are some interesting facts to substantiate that progress is being made.

Mr. Foulds: Would the minister hazard a guess about what would be an appropriate number of years for the companies of Ontario to achieve affirmative action? Does he not realize that, using his own statistics of the rate of progress that we have had in the last seven years, it will take 13,300 years for every company in Ontario to implement an affirmative action program? Does he not think that is just a little long for us to wait, even for a Tory government?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: It certainly is if one wants to look at the figures in that context, but I am not looking at them in that context at all. I am

looking at it in the context of acceleration, and I am convinced that we are going to see acceleration here.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, since members on all sides are interested in government policy on affirmative action, would it not be a matter of concern to the Minister of Labour that in the whole education establishment, aside from the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) at the very peak, the role of women in senior positions, either as directors or as principals of schools across this province, is in the same area statistically as the acting leader of the New Democratic Party has brought to his attention? Would he not feel it is at least partly his responsibility to discuss this serious and continuing matter with his colleague the Minister of Education?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We discuss it with the boards constantly.

Mr. Wrye: But you don't get any action. A lot of talk.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of Labour has the floor.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, the affirmative action committee of the Toronto teachers' association—in fact I believe it is an umbrella that is larger than just the Toronto teachers' association—has just published a very interesting booklet. That is not encouraging, I agree with the member, but I read that booklet this past weekend and I think progress is being made there too. I would be happy to share their results with the member. I will send him a copy of that report.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, during 1981-82, the ministry spent less than one cent for each working woman in the province on affirmative action, and only 15 new programs were initiated, seven of which were in the public sector and eight in the private sector. Does the minister consider this significant and accelerating progress? Does it not convince him of the need for some kind of legislation to require employers to initiate affirmative action programs if we are going to achieve real progress?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I am not convinced that legislation is required. I do agree, though, with the member that the results to date are not satisfactory. Additional emphasis has to be placed on the program.

HYDRO EMPLOYEES IN ARGENTINA

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Premier (Mr. Davis) and the Deputy Premier and Minister of Energy (Mr. Welch), I

would like to put a question to the government House leader, the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs. Is he aware that Ontario Hydro has 13 employees working on a nuclear reactor in Argentina? Does he not think it would be appropriate for the government to request Ontario Hydro to withdraw those employees from Argentina before that nuclear reactor is completed in an expression of solidarity in view of the Queen's visit this weekend?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I am aware that Ontario Hydro has some employees in Argentina. In so far as the second part of the question is concerned, I would have to take that under consideration. It is certainly not something we have considered. I have had no discussions with anyone about it, except that when we learned these people were there, their safety was of concern to ourselves and the government of Canada. It was indicated to me that was under control.

Mr. Foulds: In his role as Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, is the minister not aware that Dr. Miguel Ussher, an assistant to the president of Argentina, admitted at a panel in Knoxville, Tennessee, on November 3, 1981, that one of the reasons his country was proceeding with the electrical nuclear power option was that it intended to consider the nuclear military option?

In view of the present international circumstances, does the minister not think it appropriate for the Ontario government to ask Hydro to withdraw those employees from Argentina before the Candu nuclear reactor is completed, so that any possible use of that reactor and its byproducts could not be extended to the military option?

Hon. Mr. Wells: The sale of Candu reactors by the government of Canada is an important part of a total export strategy of the government of Canada. It has always been done on the premise that the Candu reactors, the technology and all that goes with it, are for the benefit of the country and the people of the countries those reactors are being built in, and that there will be no military nuclear offset from that program.

I see my friends laughing over there. I do not know if that means they would like Canada not to be trying to sell Candu reactors in the world. I am sure we all think this is an area where Canada stands at the top of the heap in technology in the Candu nuclear reactor field. We, Ontario Hydro, the government of Canada and everyone have believed that in selling these we

are doing everything that is humanly possible to be sure there is no military nuclear offset from anything connected with the Candu programs in those countries.

Beyond that, I cannot say any more than I have said. We know there are Hydro employees there. They are safe at the present time. In the event of any hostilities, they will be taken out of Argentina. That is as far as I can go.

Mr. Foulds: Would the minister not agree that in the present circumstances—his government is very fond of interfering in international affairs when it benefits them politically—this is not a time to proceed with business as usual with regard to the production of nuclear power in Argentina through Ontario Hydro?

Hon. Mr. Wells: We will assent to and agree with the policy of the government of Canada and the Department of External Affairs as expressed on behalf of Canada as a whole in regard to any trading matters with Argentina. I believe the Minister of External Affairs has taken a very strong stand on that. We support that stand completely. Whatever the government of Canada decides in that regard we will support.

COUNCIL FOR FRANCO-ONTARIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, who is responsible for the Council for Franco-Ontarian Affairs.

10:50 a.m.

I draw the minister's attention an article in today's *Le Droit*, which I have before me and which reports that the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Piché) exerted influence on the cabinet to ensure that one of his friends from Kapuskasing was appointed to the Council for Franco-Ontarian Affairs, thereby making two appointments from that region. Meanwhile, apparently the Sudbury area is not going to have a representative on the council. According to the same article—

Mr. Speaker: Could you ask the question, "Is the minister aware?"

Mr. Boudria: Is the minister aware of this situation? Is he also aware that the article says the member for Sudbury (Mr. Gordon) appears to be angered by this? Can the minister clarify the situation to ensure that the credibility of the council will not be damaged by such action?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, first of all I want to say that the honourable member to

whom the member for Prescott-Russell is referring is an outstanding member of our caucus and represents the Franco-Ontarian viewpoint on a number of matters. I would be very remiss, and this government would be remiss, if we did not ask him for his suggestions on a number of matters concerning Franco-Ontarian affairs and policies of this government.

When I asked, he suggested the name of a person who could serve on the council. I understand that very fine person has agreed to serve and he will be appointed. It may be that someone else from that area will be appointed, someone who happens to live in the area, who has general concern and can be a benefit to Franco-Ontarians from all areas of Ontario.

The council is not a body that represents particular geographical areas. I am also going to appoint someone from Sudbury, so I do not know where that story could have originated.

Mr. Boudria: Is the minister not concerned that asking a member of his caucus to make recommendations for appointments to this council tends to undermine the independence and objectivity of such a council? In my view it is not supposed to represent only the views of government members. If such a practice is going to be followed, would he also entertain suggestions from opposition members for people to sit on such a council?

Hon. Mr. Wells: My answer to what I think is really a slightly ridiculous question is that it absolutely does not interfere with the independence of that council. I would be very remiss if I did not ask a member of a particular community who is in our caucus, and who is a very good spokesman for that community, to suggest members for the council. If the member for Prescott-Russell wishes to give me suggestions, I will be quite happy to look at them.

HURON BROADCASTING DISPUTE

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Is the minister aware of the imposed settlement of the first-contract dispute at Huron Broadcasting in Sault Ste. Marie where the employees had been out for a number of months, and is he aware that the federal labour board awarded wages considerably higher than the last company offer and acted on the basis that no real negotiations were taking place?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, yes, I am aware of the circumstances.

Mr. Mackenzie: Would the minister not accept this action by the federal Department of Labour as a further substantiation of the need for first-contract legislation in bitter first contract disputes, and will the minister consider bringing appropriate first-contract legislation before the House in the interests of fair and stable industrial relations in the province?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I do not think there is sufficient demonstration, federally or in the other provinces that do have that condition, to justify bringing it in here at this time. I understand that in the case of Huron Broadcasting Ltd. that was only the second first-contract imposition by the federal government.

I understand that in British Columbia there have been 22 cases but the level of first-contract compliance—I do not have the exact figures; I know there have been 22 but the records of those companies which have had a first contract put upon them is very slim.

KOZAK TREATMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Health. Did he read recent reports, I believe in the Toronto Sun, that the West German skin specialist Dr. Pavel Kozak is considering an appointment in Chicago in preference to the unique and expensive program the Minister of Health previously announced for the University of Toronto? Can he assure us that a definite offer has been made to the skin specialist and that the minister's initiatives to bring this eminent world-class specialist to Toronto will not founder simply for lack of leadership at some level?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, as indicated at the time, we made what we consider to be an important and fairly generous offer, an arrangement which would ensure that our people would have access to Dr. Kozak's procedures and the methodology whether he comes here or not. The honourable member will recall that the terms of the arrangement we worked out did not hinge upon Dr. Kozak's decision to move here. It did depend to some extent on hope that he would choose to come here in some consulting role to assist in development of the methodology he had already shared with our people.

In short, the procedure is going ahead; the Kozak treatment, as it were, is being developed, studied and used by our physicians already, or will be in a number of weeks. We expect Dr. Kozak will be here on a consulting basis because of our aggressive leadership, whether or not he

ultimately decides to stay in West Germany, locate in Toronto or locate in Chicago. In fact, if he took the Chicago offer he would be even more accessible and I am sure would want to participate in the Toronto experiment.

Mr. Nixon: I gather it is true then that the minister's aggressive leadership did not result in a specific offer to Dr. Kozak to take up some position of leadership in the new \$900,000 to \$1-million initiative being inaugurated at the University of Toronto, and it is true that no specific offer has been made to him personally to participate in that way.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: No, there was a specific offer. The specific offer was to be a consultant to the hospitals involved and at the University of Toronto in further developing his process so that it could be applied at the three hospitals involved. So there has been an offer put. It has been made possible by virtue of the Ministry of Health grant. The offer has been put to Dr. Kozak. The program is in place whether he comes here or not. Obviously if he comes here as a consultant, as the offer calls for, the program will work more quickly and it will be easier. But in any event the Kozak treatment will be available. The offer has been put. We hope he will attend here. Nothing has changed since the original offer.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

Mr. Di Santo: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Community and Social Services. I would like to ask about the Angelo Iannelli case discussed during the supplementary estimates. Is the minister aware that the Social Assistance Review Board has ratified its decision to withdraw workmen's compensation payments from family benefits but at the same time recognizes the position of Mr. Iannelli as a disabled person? Is the minister aware that his ministry is appealing this part of the decision of the board despite the fact the minister has promised that this distinction would be abolished?

11 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, Mr. Speaker, I am not aware. I am trying to recall the case. It was not in supplementary estimates this year. It must have been in supplementary estimates last year, because the honourable member was not here for supplementary estimates this year. I will look into the case and, if the person is declared to be disabled, obviously that person should get

the proper allowance. I will report back on Monday.

Mr. Di Santo: In view of the fact that the minister's unconscionable decision affects 1,100 injured workers, does he not think that he should change regulation 10(3) of the Family Benefits Act so that the injured workers who are receiving miserable pensions should not have their money subtracted when they receive family benefit, especially in view of the fact, as the minister has admitted, that family benefit payments are much below the poverty line?

When he comes back to the House, can the minister report how is it that his legal services people can spend money writing long letters—the letter of appeal was signed by Leslie M. McIntosh—while denying \$50 a month to a disabled person?

Hon. Mr. Drea: I will tell the member what I am going to do. On the day that Monique Bégin lets me change that section, I will do it. If he has got all the influence and all the clout that he says he has, why does he not give her a little call? When she changes the rules of the Canada assistance program, I will change the section on the very same day.

ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS

Mr. McKessock: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. A few days ago the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell) brought before the minister the problem of the Ontario farm adjustment assistance applications going directly from the local banks to head office before meeting with the local agricultural representatives and staying there for a considerable time. The minister said to him, "If they hear of this kind of thing, they should let us know, and we will make darned certain within hours that the manager knows where he is going wrong."

I know of applications that have been with the Bank of Montreal head office for two months. I called Peter Hart, the Bank of Montreal's head agricultural man. He agreed it is ridiculous that applications asking only for a rebate go their head office, but he said this is government regulation and is set up with the Canadian Bankers' Association.

He told me a change would have to be made by the government to allow this practice to stop, and he said it would probably take the government two months to make that change. I said I had more confidence in this government than that and I figured they could make that change just

like that. So I said I would ask the minister how long it would take.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the people on this side would say the member's confidence is well placed. I will be back in my office in about 20 minutes, and I will make sure that Mr. George, who is in charge of the program, contacts the Bank of Montreal right away, because I think the member has been given misinformation.

Basically where the problem has arisen, in individual cases I have followed up, is where a bank manager has a limit placed on him or her by the regional office or the head office of the bank as to how far he can go on credit applications. When he reaches or exceeds the limit, he ends up having to refer to regional office or sometimes—

Mr. McKessock: It's not credit applications, it is just applications for the rebate

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: With respect, the problem is not with the program. The problem is that each bank deals with its managers and puts limits on its managers in a manner different from all the others.

We will certainly follow up directly with the Bank of Montreal to see that is straightened out.

Mr. McKessock: If it were a credit application, I could understand it; but it is simply for the rebate so there is no reason why it should go to head office, other than that the Bank of Montreal is telling me it is government regulation.

To allow farmers to get some money in their hands before seeding, will the minister consider making the Ontario farm adjustment assistance program retroactive for the year prior to the application approval date, if the farmer so desires?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: No. The program is for 1982, not for a retroactive period.

COMPENSATION FOR UFFI HOME OWNERS

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Revenue. In view of the fact that he has repeatedly stated he will not seek out and reduce the assessment on homes with urea formaldehyde foam insulation, even though that policy is contrary to the policy of the Assessment Act and even though New Brunswick has now given a 20 per cent blanket reduction on UFFI homes, will he give the same right to UFFI home owners that he now gives to home owners in the city of Toronto on the

assessment appeal matter; that is, to deem their assessment has been appealed whether or not a formal application has been made?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: No, Mr. Speaker, that change will not be made. There is no doubt that we have counselled and worked with all UFFI home owners who have come to our attention, whether directly or indirectly, and have advised and assisted them in the appeal process. I have not had one person in that category contact me on the basis that he has had a problem vis-à-vis his appeal.

As far as the situation New Brunswick has got into is concerned, the honourable member may feel that is the route to go, I do not. To assume everybody has had an equal change in the value of his property because of that foam insulation, I think is a decision that is falsely reached; the review process of the assessment review court will properly allow the evidence pertaining to each and every property to be brought before it, and some will be lower than that and conceivably some will be higher.

Mr. Swart: Does the minister not realize that he is making fish of one sector of the home owners and fowl of another? Does he not realize the magnitude of the injustice of this situation? A survey done by us shows that, of those home owners who asked for the test because they had urea formaldehyde foam insulation, only 39 per cent have appealed their assessment. Of the total home owners in this province, that means only 20 or 25 per cent of them have appealed their assessments.

What is the ministry's stand on these appeals? Is it supporting them? If not, why not? Will the minister apply the principles arrived at by the court as a result of those appeals and make a reduction to all UFFI homes in this year's assessment for next year's taxes?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: We purposely made the decision to go the route of the assessment review court to try to determine the extent of the problem as it related to a change in market value. When we have had the results of that exercise this year from the review process, we will look at the possibility of any changes that might be appropriate for 1982 assessment for 1983 taxation.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, real estate agents are now making it compulsory for their customers to list on real estate forms whether their homes have urea formaldehyde foam insulation, thereby ensuring the value of those proper-

ties is automatically diminished. That is the side effect of that kind of action.

Can the minister tell us why he is so reluctant about an outright reduction of the market value assessment based on things like section 86 which indicate that a home with less value should be taxed less? Homes which have that indication when they are sold do have less value. Would this not be logical?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Speaker, everybody has his own sense of logic—

Mr. Swart: Yours is distorted.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: That is a matter of opinion. I have always known yours is.

The assessment review process is designed to do exactly that. Few people would argue that there is probably some kind of change to value, perceived or otherwise. That is part of the question. When we are working with these people and assisting them in preparing for their appeals and what they will have to show and bring to the assessment review court, that obviously is one of the factors, an indication that market value has been affected. There is no doubt that the extent of the effect on market value will be the factor that will be considered by the assessment review court in its deliberations and, ultimately, in its decision. I think that is the fair way. You are putting it to a tribunal that is set up as a third party, and in my view that is much fairer than an arbitrary change that would be fair to some and unfair to others.

11:10 a.m.

ROAD WORK SUBSIDIES

Mr. Ruston: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications. I am sure the minister is aware of the ad valorem tax on gasoline and that in the past 12 months that tax has increased from 20 cents a gallon to 29. Since the Treasurer stated in the House that he does not intend to rescind this ad valorem tax, will the minister increase the subsidies to municipalities for road construction and maintenance through the largess his government is now receiving from this tax?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I think the answer to that would have to be yes, in general, because I believe the maintenance subsidy and, in most cases, the construction subsidy to all municipalities, have been increased this year as they have been each year for many years. As the honourable member has been around this House even longer than I have, he will know that income sources go directly to the Treasurer and

do not have any real bearing on the direct allocation of budgetary funds to the operating ministries.

Mr. Ruston: Mr. Speaker, just to have the record straight, I would not want the minister to insinuate I am that old. I came here the same year as he did.

Is the minister aware that many municipalities have to pay 100 per cent of the cost of construction and maintenance of their roads owing to the government's continued failure to pass along the large increases in gasoline tax? The end result is that property taxes are rising to unreasonably high levels.

Hon. Mr. Snow: I would like to read that supplementary in Hansard to be sure, but I am certainly not aware of any municipality that is paying 100 per cent of its road maintenance and construction budget. I just do not believe there is any municipality in this province that is doing that.

Some municipalities may very well be spending an amount over and above the formula which my ministry's subsidy balances. In other words, if they are on a 50 per cent grant basis, they get a \$500,000 subsidy if they would normally spend up to \$1 million on their road program. If they spend \$1.1 million, they are going to be spending \$100,000 of their own money; but to me that is a long way from paying 100 per cent of their road construction costs, and the member very well knows that.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I have received an answer to a question I asked the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) last Thursday. He sent the answer in a letter. I appreciate very much the detail with which he answered. But would it not be more appropriate for a minister to answer a question asked in the House through a ministerial statement as well? I request you to ask the minister to do that on Monday.

Mr. Speaker: Any minister may answer a question as he or she sees fit. We have had complaints. I do not know the length of the answer, of course, but perhaps it would be more appropriate under statements; I am not sure.

AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY

Mr. Cooke: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I waited until after question period so as not to interfere with the time, but yesterday the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. Walker) indicated that Chrysler Corp. had a \$500-million

surplus of trade between Canada and the United States.

I wish to point out to the minister and to the House that last year Chrysler sold 117,000 cars in Canada while they produced 69,000 cars in Canada. Considering that engines and transmissions account for 20 to 30 per cent of the value of a car and that they are all imported for Chrysler Canada Ltd., the minister has obviously provided incorrect and inaccurate information, which could have a very negative effect on the relationship this government and the workers should have with Chrysler to get it to produce more parts in Canada.

I wish to point out further that we contacted the federal government, Mr. Gray's office, after yesterday's question period and were told by officials in the federal government that they could not understand how the Minister of Industry and Trade could possibly make such a silly comment in the House yesterday.

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, I was making some general comments.

While we are on that point, the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. Cooke)—I called it humble Riverside in view of his vast capacities—raised a question yesterday about whether Chrysler Corp. had made a decision to move the vast majority of its purchasing department out of Windsor to Detroit.

I implied that the honourable member was perhaps somewhat in error in his approach to the question. After checking into this matter, it would appear I may have been assessing that incorrectly. Upon checking, I have determined that his facts were entirely wrong; in fact, he was totally out to lunch on the question.

Chrysler is not moving its purchasing department from Windsor to Detroit. It is moving it from Detroit to Windsor. The actual fact is that Chrysler Canada is not moving the vast majority of its purchasing department to Detroit. The reorganization that Chrysler announced on March 11, 1982, involved the moving of senior officials from Detroit to Windsor to establish a new purchasing function in Canada. Rather than reducing the purchasing function in Canada, Chrysler has actually increased it.

For the first time, Chrysler has appointed a vice-president to be responsible for, among other functions, increasing the level of Chrysler purchasing in Canada. Also for the first time in its recent history, Chrysler has established a Canadian officer to be solely responsible for actively seeking out new Canadian suppliers.

Just two hours ago, I spoke with Mr. Kiborn,

the vice-president and treasurer of Chrysler Canada Ltd. From the information we have, under the reorganization no jobs or functions are being transferred from Windsor to Detroit. This was a reference by Mr. Kiborn, and the member's statement is entirely wrong.

Under the new organization, Mr. F. J. O'Reilly has been appointed the Canadian vice-president for manufacturing, procurement and supply. Reporting to him are Mr. R. J. Grieves, director of Canadian supplier development and Mr. A. C. Clarke, director of procurement and supply. Mr. Grieves's sole function is to find new Canadian suppliers and help them to sell to Chrysler Canada and Chrysler Corp.

The member has to get his facts straight in this House if he is going to come in here and say that kind of thing.

Mr. Speaker: I sincerely hope that clarifies the record.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think this is degenerating into a debate. We are obviously having a difference of opinion.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, this is not the same point of privilege. It is based on what the minister said, which was not my point of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: I realize that.

Mr. Cooke: He attributed comments to me yesterday that I did not make. I think that point should be made. I never once said yesterday, or in the open letter and press release I put out yesterday, that one job was being lost at the sales department in Windsor. That was made very clear. What I said was that North American mandating and the division of sourcing meant that the United States would make the vast majority of the decisions on the T115 and that is correct.

Mr. Speaker: I think this would better be handled by a ministerial statement on Monday.

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, I am simply responding to the—

Mr. Speaker: I do not think it requires a response at this time, with all respect.

Hon. Mr. Walker: I was going to respond with the very words the member used.

Mr. Speaker: The minister can draw his attention to that on Monday.

NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, I want to give notice that I am dissatisfied with the irresponsible

answer given by the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Ashe), and under rule 28(b) of the standing orders of this House we will debate this next Tuesday night.

ANNUAL REPORT, MINISTRY OF
COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES,
1978-79

Mr. Shymko: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. As chairman of the standing committee on social development, I would like to seek your guidance and clarification on a matter that was raised before the committee by the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston), namely, the discussion by the committee of the annual report of the Ministry of Community and Social Services for 1979.

11:20 a.m.

My understanding is that the annual report of the Ministry of Community and Social Services was referred to the committee by a petition of 20 members on March 30, 1982.

Standing order 33(b) provides:

"The statutory annual report of each ministry and of all boards and commissions and other agencies reporting to each minister for the immediate past reporting period, shall be presented to the House before the consideration of the minister's estimates unless reasons are given to the House for noncompliance. On the petition of 20 members any such report shall be referred to a standing or select committee of the House."

It is my understanding that standing order 33(b) permits this procedure only for statutory annual reports. Apparently, nothing in the Ministry of Community and Social Services Act or in any other statute has any requirement that the ministry's annual report be tabled in the assembly. Accordingly, that particular request is against standing order 33(b).

I would like to have clarification or guidance before we proceed in the committee. I understand that there is no statutory provision that this report be tabled. Is the report therefore properly before the committee, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: On that point of order, Mr. Speaker: I was advised by the Clerk's office to use that particular approach. The interpretation of the rules is not unlike that which the member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Shymko) stated.

However, we do have a precedent of other ministries' annual reports that do not come through statutes being debated or brought before

committees for debate. I think the report of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is one example. Therefore, this was something for which there was a precedent and this was one approach we could take to this matter.

Because there were a couple of technical problems with it, I presumed some discussions were taking place between the table and the chair and yourself since I tabled this. I am surprised that this has been raised in the House in this way instead of being negotiated as I understood it was going to be done.

Mr. Speaker: Contrary to what your understanding may be, I say to all honourable members that I will have to take this under advisement. Although it is an interesting point, I am not aware just what are statutory annual reports and what are not. It may be interesting to look into what are and what are not. I will be happy to consider this over the weekend and report back to the House; I guess the beginning of the week would be the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Nixon: On the point of order, Mr. Speaker: It seems to me almost incredible that a ministry with the budget of the ministry under discussion would not have a statutory requirement that its annual report be tabled. They do have an annual report. The fact that the law does not require it to be tabled in the House, and therefore available for debate, is the sort of oversight I would hope government representatives would take note of and correct by some minor amendment, without too much delay.

Mr. McClellan: I have an additional matter, Mr. Speaker. The petition of referral was accepted in accordance with precedent and referred to the committee; not for the chairman of the committee to decide whether or not it was in order, it had already been accepted as being in order, it was referred to the chairman of the committee for arrangement of the discussion and debate. I hope you will simply instruct the chairman to carry on in accordance with our traditions and practices.

Mr. Speaker: That is also very interesting, but I will have to take a look at it. It has been drawn to my attention. I will have to speak to my advisers, seek their advice and report back to the House, probably at the first of the week.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: A gag attempt.

Mr. McClellan: A little tin pot dictator.

Mr. Conway: Why the Kremlin would ever want you I can't imagine.

Mr. McClellan: Maybe Yuri should get a little uniform for himself.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Why don't you put on a little uniform, commissar?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Shymko: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think you have made your point.

Mr. Shymko: Mr. Speaker, I object to these remarks. As the chairman of a committee I am advised. I seek the advice of the clerk and I have been given this information.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: You get up and defend ministers when you are in committee. Now you come in and try to obstruct us.

Mr. Shymko: Mr. Speaker, there is no intention of any obstruction. It is only the responsibility—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Thank you very much. I point out to all honourable members it does nothing for the reputation of this chamber or of the individual members to get into a name-calling session. I am not pointing the finger at anybody; I am drawing it to the attention of all honourable members.

REPORT

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Mr. Treleaven from the standing committee on administration of justice presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bill without amendment:

Bill Pr11, An Act respecting 373800 Ontario Limited.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION

STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that the standing committee on general government be authorized to adjourn to Thunder Bay and North Bay, Ontario, on Wednesday, April 21, 1982, during its consideration of Bill 159, An Act to revise the Planning Act.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

SAVINGS OFFICE ACT

Mr. Philip moved, seconded by Mr. Di Santo,

first reading of Bill 64, An Act respecting the Province of Ontario Savings Office.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, this bill provides for an expanded Province of Ontario Savings Office with the power to make loans and other financial services as well as receive deposits.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE PAPER

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the interim answers to questions 32 to 51 inclusive standing on the Notice Paper [see appendix, page 893].

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, since my remarks last night took a little longer than we had counted on, it appears we will need some extra time for the debate on the speech from the throne. As I indicated in the statement of business on Thursday, the House could meet on Monday night. It would seem expeditious to have a night sitting this coming Monday.

Mr. Conway: I intend to make use of your precedent.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Does the honourable member mean to use my precedent to expand the time he talks?

Mr. Conway: No, I will follow your guidelines.

Hon. Mr. Wells: If the member quotes as many prominent Canadian politicians of the same political stripe as I did, I will be happy to listen to his remarks.

11:30 a.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, I will have to make this fairly short because my pilot is leaving in about one hour and 15 minutes and I would like to leave with him. I did want to make a few remarks in this debate on matters that concern me deeply, since I am not going to be able to be here on Monday. Forgive me if I do not refer specifically to too many of the matters in the

speech from the throne but there is so very little substance to refer to.

In the very first paragraph of the speech, the government said, "We must nevertheless devote our abilities and our energies to putting Ontario on a more positive track;" 28 pages later I really wondered why it bothered to write that first sentence.

I want to talk for a minute about my concern as a fairly newly arrived member about what I consider to be the undermining of the relevance of this institution. I want to give two examples while the government whip is here.

First is the unacceptable attitude of the government with regard to the speeches from the Leader of the Opposition and the leader of the third party. For two years now, I have watched and stood by while the the main replies by the leaders of the two opposition parties have been watched by a group of government members numbering, at times, no more than four or five. I find it insulting.

If we are going to have a relevant institution we are going to have to begin to understand there are three parties with three points of view here. These points of view, especially on the important matters of the day, and the main points of view of the parties as expressed by the leaders, should at least be listened to. It does nothing for this institution and it does nothing for the way in which the members of the public—through the press or through their presence in the gallery—view this institution, to have four or five government members, often without even a cabinet minister, here to listen to the remarks of the leader of Her Majesty's loyal opposition.

The remarks did not last for two or three hours. They lasted for 35 or 40 minutes. I would suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, and to the member for Oriole (Mr. Williams), they were relevant, since they represented the point of view of 33 or 34 per cent of the people of Ontario. It is almost as if this government believes it won a 100 per cent vote in the last election. It did not.

While I am at it, let me speak briefly about the matter that came up yesterday on the resolution of my friend the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney). It denigrates the private members' hour and the importance of that hour, and ultimately of this institution, when a general resolution expressing the general will of the House is blocked by this government or by the members of any party. If the members opposite do not agree with it—the member for Oriole and the member for Cambridge (Mr. Barlow) spoke

against the resolution, and presumably would have voted against it—then let them stand in their place in the private members' hour and vote no.

The resolution was of a general nature. It was not a specific bill which got into a great deal of specifics. It would have been nice if the members of this House could have indicated, in a general way in the private members' hour, whether they felt the thrust of the resolution was a fair one.

I notice not all members of the government stood in their place. The member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) did not stand. I do not believe the member for St. George (Ms. Fish), who is in this House today, stood. Presumably that is because they would have wished to vote in favour. I do not know whether all members of both parties would have stood and voted in favour of the resolution, but it would have been nice if we could have put those votes on the record so the people of Ontario and the people of the individual constituencies could see the general views of their members. I think it is regrettable. I think, again, it undermines the importance of this institution and of the private members' hour.

I do not want to spend any more time on that because I have a number of other matters I want to talk about.

The first is the future of Ontario, and particularly of my own community of Windsor because I suppose we are a symbol of what is happening now in Ontario. Provincial unemployment is as high as it has ever been in recent years. Windsor's unemployment is into a crippling third year of double digits. StatsCanada's unemployment figure for Windsor in March was 14.6 per cent. The Canada Employment Centre in the city said the figure was even higher, that it was 17 per cent with some 22,000 men and women out of work.

Let me assure members at the outset that the men and women of Windsor are not out of work by choice. They want jobs and they want them now. It is not good enough for this government to stand up and, member after member, flail away at the federal government as if there are no responsibilities in this House. If there are no responsibilities, then why do we not just close up and go home? I suggest in a couple of specific ways there are responsibilities and there are means this government could take to get some of the people of Windsor back to work. I will give a couple of very specific examples.

For 11 years now, Windsor has waited for a 300-bed chronic care hospital that was approved

in 1971 and then stopped when capital funding and spending were frozen. Why does this government not move ahead on the chronic care facility? Why does it leave 150 people in a 60-year-old converted school that is probably a firetrap, and leave the remainder of the people who need the chronic care facility sitting in acute treatment beds in hospitals all around Windsor while, for example, patients needing those acute treatments beds lie in hospital corridors, according to the chief of staff of Metropolitan General Hospital, for up to three days? Not three hours, not 24 hours, but three days.

If the government wishes to move and wishes to get a few of the people of Windsor back to work—I remind the members opposite that Windsor still is in Ontario—why does it not build the 300-bed chronic care hospital starting tomorrow? The construction industry would be delighted, even the supporters of my friends across the way who so generously contributed to the campaign. Some of them have since gone bankrupt because the government will do nothing to get Windsor back to work.

While we are talking about specific ways to give Windsor some employment, let us look at the number of government jobs we have in Windsor. Currently we have a total of 509 government jobs, which is probably rock-bottom. The government probably cannot put any fewer jobs in Windsor. If it could, it probably would try. Let me give a couple of comparisons to show how fairly we are being treated by a government that continues to wring its hands and talk so greatly and generously of its concern for the unemployed of Ontario.

There are 2,961 government jobs in London, 1,814 in Hamilton, over 1,800 in the riding of the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Norton) in Kingston—and more are moving there every day—and over 2,000 in the city of Thunder Bay. I point out that Kingston has one quarter of the population of Windsor and Thunder Bay one half. Yet we have 509 jobs. I am not suggesting we hire new civil servants so we can put them in Windsor. What I am suggesting is that it makes no sense at all, ultimately for the taxpayers of Ontario whom the government says it is so concerned about, to continue to move jobs out of Windsor. Yet that is exactly what this government has done.

Just recently the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Ashe), who told me last July when I wrote him a letter that he had no plans to move the retail sales tax offices from Windsor, did just that. Another nine jobs - two of them accounting jobs

that could be filled by business graduates from the University of Windsor another nine jobs went running 110 miles down the road to the white-collar city of London.

11:40 a.m.

Three years ago, when this government moved to rationalize and regionalize its Ontario health insurance plan operations, 46 of the 51 OHIP jobs in Windsor went down the road 110 miles to London. In a city starved for white-collar employment, with the highest unemployment rate in all Ontario, why does the government continue to take jobs from that city? How can anyone in that city believe this government has one iota of concern? Is it because we have four Liberals and one New Democrat from Essex county? Is that the way it works?

I suggest that the 18.8 per cent of the people of my riding who voted for the government in the last election, as is their right in this democracy, are also suffering from its callous disregard for Windsor. I suggest to the government if they wish to maintain some relevance in Windsor, if they wish to be able to say to the people of Windsor at election time, "We offer you some programs and some policies," they had better start to prove to those people in desperate straits—dire straits does not even begin to describe it—that they care.

It is not good enough to blame high interest policies and the federal government. The federal government has its responsibilities and let me be the first to acknowledge them. I acknowledged them to my colleague the federal Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce in a meeting less than two weeks ago. I have spoken with a number of my federal colleagues and expressed my personal concern. I have spoken in this House on the matter. But this government cannot duck its responsibilities.

As the new Labour critic for this party I want to briefly touch on two areas. One of them came up yesterday; the whole area of justification for plant shutdowns. I intended to make these remarks in the debate yesterday had there been time. It seems to me we have reached a point where we must begin to work together. Working together means that when a company is in trouble and faced with hard decisions, perhaps even closure, not just management or shareholders but the workers who are in the front lines deserve a chance to be heard.

We have had far too many examples in recent years of situations in which the workers are simply informed that the company is shutting down or cutting back and that massive layoffs

will result. There are options that companies should explore with the workers. The federal government has just initiated a program called a work-sharing program. I have some concerns about it and it may not always work, but it has proved that in some cases the workers may wish to get together to discuss the matter among themselves and with management, and to share the limited amount of employment available. That cannot happen when a company unilaterally announces layoffs or, worse, closure.

My concern is that some of the closures are simply not justified. They should be justified not only to the workers but to the community. As my friend the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini) pointed out yesterday, the community infrastructure that is put in place for companies is often very expensive and often done for the benefit of those companies in the first instance. For the companies somewhere down the road to pick up and flee to another community, very often in another country, is at best unfortunate.

The other area I want to address very briefly is the whole issue of severance pay. I notice there were some comments in the speech from the throne about equal pay. I guess we will have to wait for the specifics. I think by now it is obvious that the severance pay legislation is simply not working well enough. It is not working well enough for the very reasons that we suspected last year and pointed out to the then Minister of Labour, now the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Elgie), when we debated Bill 95. The minimum standard for severance pay, which is 50 workers, is far too high; and the minimum level for payment, and that is five years' experience, is too high; and the 26-week cap that has been put on is unfair. There are other concerns which need to be monitored, but those are concerns which can be addressed immediately. It seems to me they should be addressed immediately.

A company in the city of Brantford, which has about the second highest rate of unemployment in this province, was laying off 26 workers, two of whom had over 40 years' experience. Because the company did not have 50 workers, those people will walk out on to the streets with eight weeks' notice. In fact, they will even have to work those eight weeks - with no employment prospects, not in a city with 14 or 15 per cent unemployment. This was exactly the floor that the former minister spoke about. Yet in small companies with fewer than 50 workers—and there are hundreds and thousands of them in

Ontario—the floor is denied, totally denied. I just do not think that is fair.

Why should a worker in a company of 25 not be treated as a worker would be in a company of 200 when he is laid off by a closure of a company in a city like Windsor or Brantford or St. Catharines, which has unemployment that is so high it makes the prospects of quick new employment almost impossible? I think those are just two areas that I might want to touch on that need redress and need it quickly.

I want to say a word or two about my former area of criticism, the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. We have now waited nine or 10 months for the government to respond to the Fisher report, and the universities have waited nine or 10 months. They got a little bit of an ad hoc increase of 12.2 per cent but the problems are not going away. I hope the minister will move very soon to indicate whether she has an interest in maintaining and restoring the universities of this province to, and I will admit it, their former greatness. But I hope she would move before some of those universities get to the point that was warned of by the former head of the advisory commission, Dr. Winegard, that they will literally get to the point of being in bankruptcy.

While I am talking about the universities, let me just touch for a minute on the hypocrisy that we have heard from this government about federal cutbacks, especially in this area. I am using tables which were provided to a federal-provincial conference by the provinces themselves. In terms of operating expenses—and this is the provincial view—in the year 1974-75 the federal government provided 48 per cent of those expenses, the provincial government 35 per cent and the rest was made up of others such as endowments, student fees and the like. By 1981-82, this year now ending, the federal share had risen nine per cent to 57 per cent and the provincial share had dropped six per cent to 29 per cent. That is on a Canada-wide basis.

11:50 a.m.

I want to bring to the attention of the House the sorry track record of this great province which has certainly made its contribution to the overall, country-wide sorry track record. In 1974-75, the federal share was 46 per cent, the provincial share was 34 per cent and others, through fees and endowments, were 20 per cent. Eight years later, the federal share had climbed 14 per cent to 60 per cent, \$6 out of every \$10, and our friends opposite were contributing all of 22 per cent, down 12 per cent, down by one third

in eight years. The federal government has come under scathing attack from this government for its deficits. That is how it got them, trying to keep the universities of this province afloat.

The federal government has announced a modest cutback and they hold up their hands in despair and say, "Ottawa is about to cripple the universities of Ontario." I am afraid not. The figures do not lie and they are this government's figures. The crippling effect has been caused by this province and by the chronic underfunding of the university system.

Mr. Grande: Are you supporting federal cut-backs?

Mr. Wrye: I heard the member for Oakwood (Mr. Grande) say a few words. Let me say to him it is really unfortunate in terms of fed-bashing that he and the members of his party never gave the federal government any credit for all the money it has put in over the years. I have never heard a word of credit, but enough said. He must have missed some of my comments on—

Mr. Riddell: They do not know what credit is all about over there.

Mr. Wrye: No, I suppose not. I think the cab is waiting so I want to wrap up with a couple of comments on a matter which I want to bring to the attention of the House in as much of a nonpartisan way as one ever can.

It is an issue that has affected me quite deeply the more I have learned about it. I would hope the Provincial Secretary for Social Development (Mrs. Birch) might pay some attention to these remarks and bring them to the attention of her colleagues. Perhaps we might get some action on them. I do mean quite sincerely that I bring these to her attention in a nonpartisan way.

These are examples of people, like a 45-year-old man in my riding who has not worked for two years. He cannot mow the lawn, paint or do average household chores. He was an avid reader and now he is forced to abandon books because his memory has deteriorated to the point where he forgets the first sentence on the page by the time he reads the last.

There is another member in my riding who was once a skilled labourer. He still looks well on the outside but he has so many internal disorders he seldom knows the time of day. I think the Provincial Secretary for Social Development will probably be aware I am talking about the degenerative brain disease known as Alzheimer's disease.

An estimated 200,000 Canadians over 65

suffer from this disease, including 73,000 in Ontario and 3,000 in my own city of Windsor. It causes some 10,000 fatalities a year and is believed to be the fourth most common cause of death. The disease was initially diagnosed 75 years ago. It attacks the brain cells, impairing memory, judgement and intellect. Related to these effects are anxiety and depression.

As many members will know, there is at present no known cause of or cure for the disease. I raise this matter because people from the Alzheimer Society have brought to my attention the need for a change which I believe is justified in the current Mental Health Act. I would like to spell out where the change should occur.

By law, the provincial public trustee is responsible for taking over the financial affairs of an individual judged to be incompetent and placed in a psychiatric hospital. Provincial regulations allow the public trustee to take over the affairs of these patients without considering the close friend or relative who obtained power of attorney prior to that time. Under the Mental Health Act the following applies, "Upon the public trustee becoming committee of the estate of a person under this act or by an order made under this act, every power of attorney of such person is void."

The section of the act should be seriously reconsidered for the following reasons. The patient should not have to incur the additional expense to the government when he has been responsible in awarding power of attorney to a friend or relative while competent, because a fee is charged for the services that a public trustee provides, two and a half per cent on assets coming in and two and a half per cent on assets going out.

The president of the Alzheimer Society made a point, and I would just quote her comments, "We have grave doubts about the operation of the office of the public trustee because of the number of bad experiences - rent not being paid, income tax not being paid, no personal effort to invest at the best rates, etc." This is clearly a concern on their part, and they have a number of examples. Obviously, the public trustee's office has a high case load. The case load would decrease if individuals with responsible powers of attorney were left alone to manage the estate. By doing this, a more concentrated, adequate job would be administered to individuals in need of assistance from the public trustee. The quantity of work would decrease and the quality of work would increase.

I also want to make the point that as things stand now it is possible, and I have heard of examples, where friends or relatives holding power of attorney over incompetent persons may feel the need to hide those incompetent persons from an institution for fear of losing the power of attorney. This will only hinder the patient, who may be in need of provincial psychiatric services and is unable to attain them because of the secrecy of the situation.

Finally, I believe it is ethically and morally wrong to revoke the power of attorney from an individual who has been trusted by a once competent person. The government is showing no respect towards the patient and his family by automatically taking over the estate. As the provincial secretary knows, certain individuals throughout Ontario have spoken out on the existing problem. Lawyer Hugh Fraser, who is handling an Alzheimer patient case, would like the government to recognize the power of attorney given before the donor becomes incompetent. Fraser states, and I quote: "If you are competent when you gave it, then it should remain valid when you are no longer competent. Wills don't become invalid if you later become incompetent."

Fraser says an alternative would be streamlining and simplifying the existing legal proceeding to regain control, to cut costs and time; or he suggests a period before the public trustee steps in during which the family could apply in a simpler manner to retain control. He agrees that safeguards are needed to protect the incompetent person and does not think relatives would object to reporting to someone. To get control now, relatives must apply through the courts to show they will faithfully administer the estate. Once all the legal paperwork is completed, most who apply get control. However, the expense is high and I am told the time is lengthy, sometimes as long as a year.

Before I go any further, I would be remiss if I did not say that the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) has spoken out on a number of occasions and quite eloquently in this regard. He has suggested he does not object to the public trustee moving in if there is no one else to manage someone's affairs, but he has also suggested, and I am quoting him, that it is "downright stupid to have the public trustee take over when someone is already managing with a power of attorney."

The member suggested the province should have to show cause why the public trustee should move in and take over the financial

affairs of a psychiatric patient who had given power of attorney before. As it stands now, the onus and expense rest with the individual to go to court and prove that the public trustee is not needed, rather than the other way around.

The executive director of the Royal Ottawa Hospital, Mr. Peter Roberts, says the situation could be improved by injecting a little discretion into the system. He suggested that before psychiatrists judge whether a patient is incapable they meet with family members to see if someone is already managing the patient's affairs. If so, Mr. Roberts suggested, perhaps there could be changes made to allow family members to retain control without the high legal cost.

12 noon

A number of other proposals have been made. Social work students in masters degree courses at the University of Windsor did an in-depth research study of the role of the public trustee. They came up with a number of recommendations which are too long to go into, but I hope the Provincial Secretary for Social Development will take this request to heart and take another look at what is indeed a tragic situation.

Just two weeks ago I had a constituent come to my office who used to be a senior official at Hiram Walker in Windsor. He has been forced to retire because of the disease. He has turned over power of attorney to his wife, and he is adamant that she retain the power of attorney. He knows exactly what he is doing.

The couple have been married for more than 30 years, and he recognizes what the future has in store. He simply believes he should be allowed to make provision for the future as he sees fit in this regard. After a long discussion with him on this matter, I could not agree more. I hope the Provincial Secretary for Social Development will take a look at this matter and that some changes will be forthcoming.

There were a number of other things I wished to talk about. This speech ran a little longer than I thought it would, but there are so many deficiencies in this province it is surprising one can even begin to document them in just a few minutes.

Although I do not expect there will be any change in thinking on the part of this government and the members on the back benches, I hope that because this speech from the throne is deficient, they will join with us in supporting the amendment to the speech from the throne. Then we may go back and try to come up with a

speech that begins to address the very real problems we have in this province.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to participate in the throne speech, particularly in view of the fact I now have a new portfolio assignment from our new leader, Bob Rae. That assignment is to spend my time exclusively on the very important area of women's issues.

In effect, this is one of the largest portfolios in this province, but it does not have a government member opposite who has been assigned that responsibility specifically. It does cover a great many areas, from day care to employment standards to the problems of battered women and violence in the home.

An infinite number of areas that come under provincial jurisdiction affect the lives of women in this province. I am very glad to be able to devote all of my time to trying to improve the legislation and the conditions under which women live in this province.

Women constitute slightly more than half of the population, but they are disadvantaged in many ways. They do need a spokesman, and I would have hoped all parties would have had a spokesman in this area. Women need a considerable amount of legislative assistance to achieve a position of equality in our society.

Eighteen months ago, a New Democratic Party member, the member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Charlton), introduced a private member's bill entitled the Women's Economic Opportunity Act. This contained a very comprehensive program for achieving equality for women in the work place. When it was debated on November 13, 1980, 32 Conservative members—I think that was all who were present—including the Minister of Labour, stood up and blocked a vote on it. This is allowed under the rules of the House. If 20 members do not wish to have a subject voted on, they can rise before the vote occurs.

These are the kinds of proposals that those 32 members, including the Minister of Labour at the time, opposed or refused to allow the House to express an opinion on: (1) equal pay for work of equal value, (2) universal and affordable day care, (3) an end to sexual harassment in the work place, (4) opening up nontraditional jobs to women by giving them access to apprenticeship and skills training, (5) affirmative action programs, both in the public and the private sector, and (6) creation of an equal employment office in the Ministry of Labour to deal, in an overall way, with the question of removing

barriers to equal opportunity for women in this province.

New Democratic Party members have advocated these programs on a piecemeal basis for a number of years. One of our former members, Ted Bounsall, brought in a bill for equal pay for work of equal value several years ago. His version actually passed second reading in the House in 1979 and went through extensive public hearings at which many groups of women and men spoke in favour of the bill. Some employers spoke against it. Despite widespread public interest in this bill, the government refused to call it for third reading, which is the last stage before it could become law.

We also adopted a very comprehensive day care policy at our June 1980 party convention and have been advocating that policy in this House. The policy calls for a diversified and comprehensive day care program, enabling all those who wish access to day care to have it on a universal and affordable basis.

We also pointed out for a considerable time that the wage gap between male and female earnings will not disappear until we open up nontraditional jobs to women and give them equal access to skills training. The present gap in Ontario for full-time employees is 37 percentage points; that is, women working full-time earn, on average, 63 per cent of what men earn. When we take part-time employees into account, the gap is larger. Unfortunately, more women than men work part-time, either because of child care responsibilities or because of a lack of opportunities for full-time work in their communities and their skill fields.

Since that day 18 months ago when 32 government members blocked the NDP's comprehensive bill, An Act respecting Economic Equality for Women in Ontario, let us look at what progress, if any, has been made.

When the then Minister of Labour spoke in the debate on the NDP bill, he said he did not really oppose the principles of the bill, only the means of achieving the objectives. That statement was made before the election, when the government was nervously looking over its shoulder at the voters.

The minister also outlined some of the means he might adopt by way of legislative changes in the equal pay laws or a beefed-up voluntary affirmative action program. He asserted that the government was actively and vigorously pursuing all the matters dealt with in the NDP bill in its own way, which was his reason for not

supporting the bill even though he agreed with its principles.

12:10 p.m.

Now that the election is over and the government has a majority, the government's "active and vigorous pursuit of the objectives of the bill" has become as active and vigorous as a bear in hibernation. For example, we have not seen any of the promised amendments to the equal pay laws. While the ministry did step up the advertising of the existing laws and hired more investigators to deal with complaints prior to the election, the actual results in terms of equal pay complaints and awards over the past year are not very encouraging.

The throne speech held out no hope that the government has been converted to promoting the concept of equal pay for work of equal value, which is the only way we will end the female wage ghettos. Until we start comparing dissimilar jobs and examining them in the light of the skill and effort required, the responsibility required and the working conditions, we will not arrive at a fair remuneration system for work done by both men and women.

The present Ontario equal pay legislation provides only for comparison of "substantially the same kind of work performed in the same establishment" and work which requires "substantially the same skill, effort and responsibility and which is performed under similar working conditions."

This wording is much too narrow and explains why so few complaints are brought in or are successful. It implies all four elements mentioned must be the same before two jobs can be considered the same. For example, many women will argue that two jobs could be considered of equal value if working conditions were different but more skill was required for one than the other to offset that difference.

The actual evaluation system for determining equal pay for work of equal value is a matter of a somewhat complicated technical nature, but I am confident that it can be worked out if the legislation is not too restrictive and the principle of equal pay for work of equal value is accepted.

The 1982 throne speech vaguely promised to strengthen existing equal pay provisions. When the media asked the new Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) to elaborate the day after the speech, he appeared flustered and evasive. So far we have not seen any legislation or any precise outline of the changes which the government has in mind.

We have not yet succeeded in this province in

following the federal example of introducing the concept of equal pay for work of equal value into the Ontario Human Rights Code. This has been used at the federal level to achieve some significant breakthroughs for women who are doing work which can be considered of equal value.

The story is the same in the field of affirmative action programs. There is practically no progress. In the public sector, the government has appointed women advisers in the various ministries to carry out affirmative action programs. These are supposed to move women ahead or get them into the better paying jobs. Unfortunately, the annual report from the women crown employees office which evaluates the process is so delayed that all we have is a 1979-80 report. It is so out of date, I hardly consider it worth quoting.

What I am afraid of is that the later reports will show as little progress as the 1979-80 report showed. It would appear the government does not put a very high priority on the evaluation process or perhaps it is ashamed of the figures.

Recently, we did get a report which came to this caucus containing a summary of staff development in the Ontario public service for the years 1979-80 and 1980-81. This was prepared jointly by the women's bureau, the Civil Service Commission and the Ministry of Treasury and Economics and was presumably released in January 1982.

As the deputy leader of this party told the House recently, this report shows that on staff development training the amount spent per person for male employees was almost twice that figure for female employees. Males got 73 per cent of the total money allocated and 68 per cent of the total days off with training. The report also showed that males got almost 70 per cent of all managerial, technical and professional training paid for by the government.

If the government does not set the example for affirmative action within its own ministries, how can it expect private employers to follow affirmative action programs?

The throne speech of 1982 said the government would bring forth proposals "to further the advancement of women in the work force in both the public and private sectors." In the last few weeks we have been drawing to the minister's attention that the progress in the private sector is almost nonexistent.

Under the government's voluntary program of approaching employers and trying to encourage the institution of affirmative action pro-

grams, only 175 affirmative action programs have been put in place over a period of seven years. Of these, 141 relate to private companies; the rest are public sector employers.

As my colleague the deputy leader pointed out today, this rate of establishing about 20 new affirmative action programs a year in the private sector means it will take more than 13,000 years for an affirmative action program to be established in every Ontario work place.

In 1980-81, 60 firms were contacted, but only eight initiated affirmative action programs. Despite this low success rate, the minister still firmly opposes any sort of mandatory requirement on firms to undertake affirmative action. He has rejected the proposals for contract compliance, which is one form of requiring action from companies which receive government contracts or government subsidies. We have been advocating this for some years. We are joined by the government's own Ontario Status of Women Council, which has been strongly advocating affirmative action with teeth in it; namely, contract compliance.

It has been used to some extent in the United States with some success, and with some problems, but I think we can learn from their experience. There certainly appears to be a need for some sort of legislated action in order to move beyond this snail's pace of eight new firms a year, which is what happened last year.

The Globe and Mail published an article on March 25 which stated that the managers of six branch plants in Ontario had told the federal Department of Manpower that their American head offices have vetoed affirmative action programs. Does this not further convince the government of the need for legislative action to overcome this kind of barrier which comes from a foreign source?

I have dealt with two areas covered by the New Democratic Party's comprehensive bill, namely equal pay and affirmative action. The question is, have they done any better in other areas? I am afraid I have the same report for the areas of day care and the opening-up of nontraditional jobs to women.

In the day care field, the Ministry of Community and Social Services brought in some new expansion initiatives in December 1980. The initiatives totalled approximately \$10 million. Recently, the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Drea) reported in the House that there was still \$3.6 million of that money unexpended. This is almost 16 months after the initiatives were started. Yet, in the throne

speech, the government said it is maintaining its strong commitment to the establishment of day care.

In the throne speech it did not give any figures as to what "maintaining" means. The word has a sense of just keeping up the present programs and not providing for the need, which is very great.

In Metropolitan Toronto alone, at least 4,000 new spaces—that is subsidized spaces—are needed in order to enable many women who are being forced to go out to work, or who wish to work in order to exercise their equality in the work place, to obtain day care. They are unable to obtain affordable day care of the kind that they need. We need a very diversified service.

We need day care which will meet the needs of shift workers. That does not mean every day-care facility must be open 24 hours a day, but we do need one or two facilities in different parts of the city to be open at hours other than nine to five, which suit only a portion of the labour force. It may be that some shift workers will be helped through subsidized day care in the home, but the point is that we do not have equality of opportunity for working women if day care is available only for the 9-to-5 or 8-to-6 workers.

Yesterday, the leader of the New Democratic Party appeared before the Metro social services committee to discuss the need for day care in this area. Let me quote one paragraph from his statement in which he states the reason we need day care.

"Let me first make clear my party's commitment to universally accessible, high-quality day care. We are talking about basic rights here: the right to work, the right to raise a family without sacrificing careers and income, and the right of children to a healthy environment where their physical and mental development can flourish."

The present Minister of Community and Social Services has suggested that perhaps day care in the work place would be among the innovative arrangements for day care. Certainly that is happening in some areas. There is day care at city hall now and day care at the University of Toronto. But where is the day care at Queen's Park? We do not have one.

I understand that when the Ontario Public Service Employees Union was negotiating for its contract this year, it proposed four day care facilities in four different complexes operated by the provincial government where there were substantial numbers of employees. It suggested this could be part of the collective agreement.

This was the route the Minister of Community and Social Services had suggested was one way of solving some of the day care needs.

The government negotiators have stonewalled this proposal completely. It has become part of the unsolved requests which have been sent out for arbitration. It does not appear the government is practising what it is preaching when it says, "You should negotiate day care needs and obtain some facilities from your employer in cases where there are large numbers together and where suitable facilities can be provided."

Another area covered by the NDP comprehensive bill, as I mentioned earlier, was the question of opening up nontraditional jobs to women to enable them to move out of the job ghettos which, unfortunately, are the low-paying clerical and stenographic jobs. We have not seen very much of an increase in the number of apprenticeships open to women, nor have we seen any great extensions in skills training open to women.

The federal Department of Labour and Manpower is providing some skills training, but I do not think there is any provincial subsidy provided for it to assist the women who wish to take these courses.

Another area where we must be training women is in meeting the microtechnology revolution. The estimates are that when that takes full effect, the chip, as it is called, will displace as many as 30 to 40 per cent of present clerical workers, who are mainly women. The government should be looking into this question in great detail.

An all-party select committee has been suggested as one possible route that should be taken. It is a good idea, but a select committee can take as long as two years to come up with a report. While I think we should have this to look into the repercussions in the future and seek innovative solutions to the problem, the government should not delay in instituting clerical retraining courses for women now being displaced by word processors and computer-operated services.

12:30 p.m.

In that context we must make sure, if there are health hazards such as radiation from the video display terminals, that they are adequately measured and remedial action taken. Certainly the figures that came out of the courthouse office on miscarriages seem to be alarming and I am glad the pregnant women in that office have been transferred. Until the facts are in on this question I think the government should institute

a policy of offering transfers to all pregnant women working on video display terminals.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. I would like to remind all members that they are rustling their papers awfully loudly. It is most distracting.

Mr. Ruston: We want to keep people awake.

Ms. Bryden: This government has a tendency to try to deflect criticism of its lack of activity in any field by appointing advisory committees and study groups. While I have been advocating a select committee in a new area, I would like to look at a couple of initiatives in this field which appear to have turned out to be duds.

When opposing the NDP women's economic equality bill in 1980, the then Minister of Labour (Mr. Elgie) stated that the government had appointed a joint labour-business equal opportunity advisory council back in April 1979. That was three years ago. It had the dual function, he said, of advising the minister on how equal opportunity could be encouraged and promoting affirmative action initiatives in the private sector. Since only eight new affirmative action programs were initiated in the private sector in 1981-82, the council does not appear to have been very successful in the second part of its program.

To date, no report has been issued by this council so we have no idea what sort of initiatives it has suggested to the minister to carry out his responsibility of promoting equal opportunity. I hope the present Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) will shortly let us know how many meetings this council has held and what initiatives have been recommended. If they have not recommended any, I think there should be a sunset law for such advisory committees.

In the same speech the minister referred to another report on women's employment strategy which he said was being prepared by the Ontario Manpower Commission and the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission. In October 1980 he said the report was expected within a month or two. Fifteen months later I am told the report has still not emerged.

In the meantime, jobs for women have shrunk at a faster rate than for other workers. Latest figures show that at the end of February, 147,000 women were unemployed in Ontario out of a total of 343,000. Next to young people they are the largest single group of unemployed persons in the province. We all know that in time of recession women are often the first to be laid off and the last to be rehired because they often lack seniority as a result of their shorter

work life or interrupted attachment to the labour force due to child-rearing. If the Ontario government really placed a high priority on the economic needs of women it would speed up the issuing of this women's employment strategy report or would undertake one of its own. We are still waiting to hear what its solution is to the problem while the problem grows.

There are many other areas I would like to deal with, but some of them were not covered in that particular bill I mentioned. I think I have illustrated from it that we have made very little progress in what were considered the key areas at that time.

There are two new areas that have become very high-profile lately. One is the question of maternity leave. I think the Ontario government does provide 17 weeks of maternity leave without any provision of compensation beyond that which unemployment insurance provides. That is a step in the right direction, but the real problem with maternity leave is, since women have the biological responsibility of carrying children, they should not have to pay for it in the work place by lower wages. They should be compensated, not just at the unemployment insurance rate, but at the full rate. Some unions are now starting to negotiate the difference between the unemployment insurance rate and the wage rate.

It seems to me eminently fair that if we are going to ask women to carry on the responsibility of providing us with a younger generation they should not be penalized when they do fulfil this responsibility. Therefore, during the period when they must take time off work they should be receiving full pay. For small employers this can be quite a burden. They may have only one or two employees and if a person is away for several months it can cost them quite a lot in replacements. What we must look at is a government program that will put this on a fair basis for all.

Right now certain unions have been able to successfully negotiate maternity leave provisions. I think they have shown the need and the moral justification for this kind of provision, and the employers who have granted it have indicated that employers have agreed women should not be penalized in this way. But it is not fair that some employers should pay for it and others should not, that some women should get it and others should not. I think the next step would be for the employers as a whole to contribute through a government scheme to a universal maternity grant that would raise the

maternity leave pay to the level of regular pay. I hope the government will be looking into that, and perhaps we might see something in the budget speech on that question.

One other question I want to raise is the government's treatment of domestic workers. They are treated as second-class citizens in this province in that the minimum wage that applies to them, which was extended to them rather belatedly just before the last election, is 50 cents less than the minimum wage that applies to other workers. They are not covered whenever there is an increase in the minimum wage. They still stay at the \$3-an-hour minimum wage that was established just before the election.

12:40 p.m.

Not only are they discriminated against in the minimum wage, but they are also discriminated against in the control of their hours of work. All other employees are covered by hours-of-work legislation which states overtime must be paid after 44 hours a week and after eight hours a day.

All the domestic workers' legislation does is guarantee 36 hours a week off. The rest of the time they can be on call but they are still paid only their \$3 an hour for a 40-hour week. It is the only legislation that controls simply the hours off and not the hours on. This again is very discriminatory.

The federal government has also started to allow some domestic workers who come from offshore to obtain landed immigrant status if they are able to achieve certain skills and qualifications. But in order to take courses, the domestic employees will need time off to attend the classes.

I think our hours-of-work legislation must cover the right of domestic workers to have additional time off to take training courses. This will ultimately enable them to upgrade their skills and be eligible for landed immigrant status and entry into all kinds of occupations in Canada.

Finally, I wanted to deal with the high-profile subject of women who are victims of domestic violence. This is not a matter of employment standards. It is a matter affecting all women whether they work or not. Are there adequate laws to protect those women? Is there adequate training of our police forces in handling domestic disputes? Is there adequate assistance for the women if they are required to leave home or if they feel they have to leave to avoid battering or possibly even more serious things such as assault or murder?

I know we do not like to look at these problems. We say that what goes on in a family's home is its own business. But when it comes to actual assault on individuals, we do have to take the responsibility to protect those individuals. First-aid emergency help is now being provided in many areas through interval or transition houses as they are called, where a woman and her children can flee if the situation in the home is impossible. But these houses do need funding.

They operate under the hostels legislation of Community and Social Services and are subsidized by the province on the same basis of 80 per cent to 20 per cent as other welfare services are subsidized. The problem is that the per diem rates are too low. They are very labour-intensive operations and, of course, costs are going up steadily not only for labour but for all costs of operating a home or a facility of this sort.

Very many of these houses are having great difficulty staying open or providing enough spaces. This is an area I think we must look at very carefully. I am speaking of it mainly as a woman's problem. There can be battering on both sides, but it is human rights legislation and human rights assistance that we have to face up to.

I placed a motion on the Order Paper calling for an all-party committee to study this whole question and the means of preventing it. That is one of the most important parts that we must study as a Legislature and we must bring in legislation that will prevent this kind of thing happening. It will bring in counselling and measures that can prevent the home situations from developing.

Our serious lack of housing can be considered one of the causes of some family quarrels and domestic upsets. That is another area we should be looking at. I hope the government will give serious consideration to this idea of an all-party committee so that we can look into all aspects of this question.

There are many other areas which I will be bringing forward in my new position as women's critic for the New Democratic Party caucus, but those are enough for the government to look at for the moment.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to join with other members of the assembly to participate in this, one of the most important and significant throne speeches that has been presented in some time.

The difficulty I always have in participating in this debate is that, as in this case as well, there are so many positive, good and realistic things

that are presented in the speech from the throne, indicating the number of initiatives that are going to be taken by this government, it makes it difficult to try to prioritize the items that one wants to select to elaborate and elucidate on. That is the occasion here as it has been in previous throne speech debates.

This particular throne speech is a very positive one. It indicates a great number of initiatives that are going to be and are being taken by this government to deal with the realities of the economic times before us.

The fact that we are in difficult times is spelled out sincerely and honestly in the speech from the throne. It recognizes that it certainly is not a bed of roses that we have at this time, as far as the state of the economy is concerned, not only within this province and throughout all of the provinces and across the country, but indeed on a global basis.

The speech does forewarn that the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) is going to have the very awesome responsibility of bringing in a very tough budget that will be complementary to the difficult economic times we are experiencing. It is not going to be an easy one for him but it is one which will realistically deal with the monetary issues.

There is no question from what the Treasurer has been saying in recent days that there are going to be further tax impositions, but what he has stated and referred to and what the speech from the throne addresses is the fact that the difficult times are highly aggravated, as far as fiscal arranging and budgeting is concerned, by the unilateral and arbitrary action the federal government has taken in adjusting its transfer payments to the provinces. As a number of people have stated before, it appears that co-operative federalism is at an all-time low, particularly in the areas of fiscal and financial responsibility in interaction.

12:50 p.m.

It is interesting that co-operative federalism evolved in such a positive way when we look at the constitutional issues. By contrast, it has deteriorated alarmingly with regard to fiscal matters. Clearly, because of that one situation alone, the presentation of a provincial budget is going to be just that much more difficult, and the unilateral action taken by the federal authorities will reduce transfer payments to the provinces over the next five years by an amount exceeding \$5.7 billion.

During the first year alone, the reduction will be close to \$1 billion for the 10 provinces—\$910

million is the calculation—and almost a third of that, in the neighbourhood of \$290 million, will affect Ontario. Over and above dealing with inflation, the Treasurer is going to have to cope with the additional responsibility of plugging the hole left by the \$290 million that has been taken away from us without consultation and co-operative discussion.

While the speech from the throne emphasizes these particular difficulties, nevertheless it addresses itself primarily to the initiatives that lie before us and that this province is going to embark upon. As I said at the outset, there are so many initiatives here to speak to in a positive vein it is difficult to select the ones to emphasize.

However, I will limit myself to two issues in the time I have available to me over the next day or two. The one that I want to address myself to first is—

Mr. Stokes: How about 10 o'clock tomorrow morning?

Mr. Williams: My mentor over here, whom I am trying to emulate in the House, understands what I am getting at, although I do not know if I can speak quite as long as he is able to do, knowing how articulate he can be on both provincial and local issues. But the issue I want to address is of universal concern, provincially speaking, to all of us—the matter of energy.

One paragraph in the speech from the throne just leaps out and cannot help but evoke comment. The paragraph stating that Ontario's

electrical power system continues to be a cornerstone of the provincial economy and the envy of other jurisdictions requires elaboration.

Its continued vitality and development to meet our needs is essential to sustaining economic growth. I think it goes without question that Ontario, through the good offices of Ontario Hydro, is in the forefront of energy development and the provision of energy, and will continue on a global basis to sustain itself as the leader in that field. We are most fortunate in this province to have a utility resource such as Ontario Hydro.

There are three areas of activity within Ontario Hydro I specifically want to speak about because they are really the backbone of our energy activity and they demonstrate the philosophy that has been expounded in the way of development of policy by our Ministry of Energy.

Given the time, it may be appropriate if you see fit, Mr. Speaker, for the debate to be adjourned since I want to touch on those matters for a number of minutes. Rather than interrupting those specifics, it might be appropriate to deal with them at the first opportunity on Monday.

The Deputy Speaker: That is fine. If you wish, the chair will recognize that it is one o'clock.

On motion by Mr. Williams, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 12:57 p.m.

APPENDIX

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE PAPER

TRADE MISSION

17. Ms. Bryden: Will the ministry table the following information on the trip to Australia and New Zealand by the Premier (Mr. Davis) and others in September 1981: (1) who went as members of the trade mission, as spouses of members and as staff; (2) places visited by each person above; (3) total costs per person paid by the Ontario government; (4) other costs connected with the mission paid by the Ontario government; (5) amount of new business contracts obtained as a result of the mission? What other trade missions to either of these countries were undertaken by the Ontario government in the past two years? What was the date, total cost and number of persons travelling on these missions? What new business contracts were obtained by each mission? [*Original question tabled December 4, 1981; tabled March 30, 1982.*]

See sessional paper 59.

OPP MICROWAVE SYSTEM

18. Mr. Elston: Would the Solicitor General provide the following information on the OPP microwave communications system:

1. How many microwave towers are to be constructed or have been constructed to date?
2. Where are these towers to be located?
3. What land acquisition has taken place to date, at what locations, at what cost, and from whom was the land acquired?
4. Does more land need to be acquired from either private individuals, other government ministries, or conservation authorities, and if so, what acreage is required, and in what locations is this land required?
5. At what wattage and frequency will the microwave system be operating? [Tabled March 30, 1982.]

Hon. G. W. Taylor: 1. Approximately 100 towers will be constructed for the new Ontario Provincial Police telecommunications system.

It is not accurate to speak of a "microwave communications system" or "microwave towers." The towers are being constructed as part of a police mobile radio system, and the ministry proposes to add microwave facilities at some tower sites.

2. The towers will be located throughout Ontario. In most cases the new tower will

replace an old tower on an existing site.

Tower locations cannot be disclosed for security reasons. Radio communication is vital to policing, and the Ontario Provincial Police have legitimate concerns respecting possible sabotage and vandalism. Detailed information on the radio system could be used by the criminal element to disrupt law enforcement and aid in the commission of crimes. This proviso respecting security also applies to the responses to questions 3 and 4.

3. As indicated, most of the proposed locations are existing tower sites on crown land.

In some instances existing tower sites must be extended by the purchase of adjoining property, and in some instances new sites must be purchased. Almost all land acquisitions in southern Ontario have been completed. The total cost to date is just under \$100,000.

4. There will be some additional land acquisition from private individuals, particularly in northern Ontario. In some instances, arrangements have yet to be made with other ministries or agencies of the crown.

The estimated cost of remaining purchases is less than \$100,000.

5. It is proposed that the system operate between 1,400 MHz and 7,700 MHz at a power of one quarter watt. The use of microwave requires the approval of the federal Department of Communications.

DAY CARE CENTRES

28. Mr. Boudria: Would the Minister of Revenue table a status report on his study of the revenues that could be generated by taxing day care centres in public schools and churches, including a list of all municipalities being reviewed for this purpose, a list of any other types of day care sites being reviewed (such as community centres), and the date on which the study will be completed? If this is an in-house project, which department in the Ministry of Revenue is preparing the report? If the work has been contracted out, to whom has it been contracted, and what is the fee? [Tabled April 2, 1982.]

29. Mr. Boudria: Would the Minister of Community and Social Services table a status report on his study of the revenues that could be generated by taxing day care centres in public schools and churches, including a list of all

municipalities being reviewed for this purpose, a list of any other types of day care sites being reviewed (such as community centres), and the date on which the study will be completed? If this is an in-house project, which department in the Ministry of Community and Social Services is preparing the report? If the work has been contracted out, to whom has it been contracted, and what is the fee? [Tabled April 2, 1982.]

30. Mr. Boudria: Would the Minister of Education table a status report on her study of the revenues that could be generated by taxing day care centres in public schools and churches, including a list of all municipalities being reviewed for this purpose, a list of any other types of day care sites being reviewed (such as community centres), and the date on which the study will be completed? If this is an in-house project, which department in the Ministry of Education is preparing the report? If the work has been contracted out, to whom has it been contracted, and what is the fee? [Tabled April 1, 1982.]

Hon. Mr. Ashe: The Ministry of Revenue is not conducting a study of the revenues that could be generated by taxing day care centres in public schools and churches. Consequently, there is no status report to table.

The assessment policies and priorities branch of the Ministry of Revenue is currently reviewing the matter of the liability of nonprofit day care centres for municipal property taxation. The ministries of Education and Community and Social Services will participate with Revenue in this review, the results of which will form the basis of a submission to cabinet. The outcome of this policy review will be announced in the near future.

INTERIM ANSWERS

32 to 51. Mr. R. F. Johnston: Hon. Mr. Drea—The scope of the question is such that additional time will be required to research a thorough reply. A final answer is expected on or about May 17, 1982.

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Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)



Second Session, Thirty-Second Parliament

Monday, April 19, 1982

Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Monday, April 19, 1982

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

PCBs IN LEGISLATIVE BUILDING

Mr. Elston: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: Four months ago yesterday, on his last day in this House, my former leader rose and pointed out that there are approximately 3,500 litres of polychlorinated biphenyls in the transformers located in the Legislative Building. He expressed the concern felt by all in this party for the health of those who work here, the members and visitors.

I think our concerns are well founded in the light of the problems experienced with PCBs in a New York state government building located in Binghamton. This building was rendered virtually useless by a fire in a transformer which released PCBs and other contaminants including dioxins. The fire occurred in February 1981 and the building is still closed.

When the state of New York moved its employees from the building more than a year ago, it was thought that it would cost \$500,000 to clean it up and that it would take two weeks. Subsequently, they revised these estimates to \$1 million and four weeks. Now, however, they do not know whether this building will ever be used again, since they expect it would cost a minimum of \$10 million to clean it up.

We are into a situation where they have cleaned up some of the furniture in that building and that has been disposed of in a landfill site. The rest of the furniture is about to be cleaned and dumped in a similar manner. My concern is that, since we have these PCB-filled transformers in this building, something like this could happen here and render this building absolutely useless forever to the people of this province.

Mr. McClellan: That's the way it is now. Nobody's able to tell.

Mr. Elston: Maybe I should say that it would be rendered unoccupiable as far as the people of this province are concerned. We were told more than four months ago that if there were any danger at all some steps would be taken to deal with the problem of PCBs in those things. I am concerned that the PCBs are still in the transformers and that no visible action has been taken. I think

it is time we had further reports on this to find out exactly what is going to be done and to have it dealt with in a hurry.

LEGISLATIVE PAGES

Mr. Speaker: Before starting on the routine proceedings, it is that time of year again when we have a new group of pages. I ask all members of the Legislature to join with me in welcoming this new group.

Andrea Baxter, Muskoka; Tim Brown, Wellington-Dufferin-Peel; Stephen Cassivi, Windsor-Riverside; Giles Cruickshanks, Sarnia; Paula Flood, Essex North; Ingrid Garcia, Lakeshore; Eric Gilson, Rainy River; Martha Héder, Lanark; Jodi Herold, Humber; Rosemarie Janosi, Durham-York; Paul Levesque, Nipissing; Elena Masarin, Oakwood; Lorne Potash, Wilson Heights; Brooks Rapley, Fort William; Heidi Robinson, Leeds; Kenneth Ryan, Riverdale; Kirk Sheppard, Northumberland; Paul Smeaton, St. David; Erinn Somerville, Cambridge; Lisa Taylor, Windsor-Sandwich; Roman Temniuk, Mississauga East; Jennifer Voll, Kitchener-Wilmot.

I ask all honourable members to join with me in welcoming these new pages to their positions. I am sure as we get to know them better, I will be able to pronounce their names a little bit better.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

CHEMICAL SPILL

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring the honourable members up to date on the matter of the recent discharge of chemicals to the city of Toronto sewers in the Wallace Avenue area earlier this month.

Through the work of my ministry's special investigative unit and industrial abatement staff, a likely source of the discharge has been determined. Staff worked with fire and police officials from the early hours of April 6 to ensure the health and safety of residents in what is commonly called the Junction Triangle area. Once their safety was ensured, officials began the painstaking work of uncovering the culprit in this incident.

My ministry's legal services branch is now reviewing what are some very complex legal

issues for contraventions of our environmental legislation with a view to prosecution. I expect a recommendation on this matter within a few days but, rather than prejudice any possible legal action, I prefer to reserve further comment on specifics for the time being.

ORAL QUESTIONS

ENROLMENT CUTBACKS

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Colleges and Universities. The minister is aware that the university presidents in the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations are contemplating enrolment cutbacks to the universities next year and in years subsequent to that as a result of chronic underfunding at the university level. Can the minister tell us what assurances she can give us and them that she will not allow any cutbacks in enrolment levels because of her government's funding programs?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that this is being contemplated in a specific group of courses at one university in four. It is also my understanding that this matter has been discussed by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada on a nationwide basis, but to my knowledge there has been no definitive discussion of this kind of activity for the universities as a whole in Ontario.

2:10 p.m.

Mr. Peterson: Is the minister prepared to make a strong and unequivocal statement that she will allow no cutbacks in enrolment at Ontario universities, to make sure we can at least attempt to guarantee decent access in this province? Will the minister make that clear statement?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I think there was a very clear statement made this year when funding at the university level was increased for operational purposes by 12.2 per cent, considerably above the projected level of inflation. I anticipate the universities will continue to function effectively with the kind of support that has been given to them.

Mr. Peterson: The reality is that the minister's funding increased 12.2 per cent when her own advisory committee recommended that 14.4 plus, including the money for capital improvements, was necessary just to make ends meet next year. That points out in graphic terms the chronic underfunding the universities have experienced and are experiencing. The minister will

recall that Dr. Ham said, "Because of this underfunding, we are preparing Ontario to be a second-rate province in the future."

Does the minister not think she has to make a clear statement to the university community that she will tolerate no cutbacks in enrolment?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am not at all sure that I or anyone else could make that statement unequivocally. The value of a university education to those who can benefit from it is of course inestimable. It is also important for the community as a whole.

There are various kinds of post-secondary educational experiences that are equally important, and it seems to me that the young person who is contemplating post-secondary education must look at all the choices available to him or her and make the appropriate choice on the basis of his talent and his proposed life choice. I anticipate young people will continue to do that. As long as they do, there is no doubt in my mind that the universities of this province will continue to provide an educational program second to none in this country over the next decade and beyond.

PHYSICIANS' SERVICES

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, now that the Minister of Health has arrived, I would like to direct a question to him.

In view of the fact that there has been no apparent headway in negotiations over the weekend and now, at least through the press, there are threats of wholesale withdrawal of services across the province, I would like to ask the minister how he intends to avert the potential withdrawal of these services, with the exception of medical emergency services. What is the minister going to do about it?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I believe the board of the Ontario Medical Association is meeting at this time. I trust that board will do what its negotiators said it would do today; that is, discuss the latest negotiating positions put on the table last Friday. I also trust the OMA will return to the bargaining table tomorrow afternoon, as it has been invited to do by our negotiators. At present, therefore, any further comment I might have will await decisions made by the OMA.

Mr. Peterson: Does the government have a plan if there is a wholesale withdrawal of services? What is the minister going to do to protect those patients who are already being inconvenienced and who I expect will be

substantially more inconvenienced in the future than they are already?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I know the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson) wants me to begin to exchange threats with the OMA. I am not going to do that. The statements I made last week and the week before stand equally today; that is, whatever needs to be done by the government of this province to ensure patient care is not threatened as a result of job actions will be done.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, the minister has said he does not want to exchange threats with the OMA. Surely the question is not one of exchanging threats but one of taking the threats from the OMA at their face value. Does the minister not agree that since it has carried out every single threat it has made so far, from administrative obstruction to rotating walkouts, it is foolish for the minister to sit there and say he does not believe it will carry out the next threat, which is for a back-to-back rotating walkout, which is indistinguishable from a general walkout?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: First, I must remind the honourable member that I find the position he and his party continue to take rather strange in view of the fact that his party advocates that doctors be given the right to strike. I cannot understand his concern about a situation where the services of doctors are withdrawn when he continues to advocate that they expressly should be given the right by this government to withdraw services.

Mr. McClellan: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: I advocate that a strike be regarded as professional misconduct. What can be clearer than that?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: With respect, I do not know what can be clearer than the member's former leader when he was speaking for his party and saying that he advocated doctors being given the right to strike. Either the right to strike, as the member's party has said very many times, means something or it does not. I happen to disagree totally and thoroughly with the position that the member's party has taken, but he has to live with his party's advocacy of the doctors' right to strike and to totally withdraw services.

The member asked why I do not take their threats at face value. I still have a great deal of respect for each and every physician in this province. When I take their threats at face value, I also take at face value their undertak-

ings not to cause any harm to their patients. If they do not meet that undertaking, if they begin to cause harm to their patients and affect their health, then obviously action will be taken firmly and quickly by this government.

In those cases brought to our attention last week, of which there were about 30 or 35, immediate action was taken by this government to make sure that what appeared to be a threat to patient health was removed. All the doctors involved co-operated at that stage and patient care last week was not threatened. To the extent that any of the new threats that are being made are carried out, if they fail to honour the other part of their obligation, to protect the health of their patients, then firm and decisive action will be taken by us in accordance with all our legislative power.

Mr. Peterson: The threats are obvious from reading the press reports of Dr. Reese's commentaries, and I will point them out to the minister in case he has not seen them. Dr. Reese said: "The escalation is necessary, because rotating walkouts proved to be just an annoyance to the public." In another interview he said that there had not been very much inconvenience; it was just Mickey Mouse pressure they had brought to bear on the government so far.

If the minister takes them at their face value, he is headed into a major confrontation. What is he going to do about it to protect the patients in this province? That is the government's responsibility.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The Leader of the Opposition and I begin from different premises. He has as the premise for his question his obvious belief that the doctors in this province will threaten the health of their patients. I do not share that belief.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Health a very simple question. Is he going to allow the OMA to engage in a general strike or walkout?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I am not going to exchange threats with the OMA. I cannot say it any more clearly than to say we will take whatever steps are appropriate to ensure that patient health is not threatened in this province.

Mr. Foulds: In noting that the minister has failed to answer the question, is he prepared to shoulder his own policy and political responsibility instead of engaging in the sham that somehow that responsibility is that of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario?

Specifically, will he prepare and issue two orders in council: (1) to classify the current irresponsible and frivolous walkouts as unprofessional conduct and therefore subject to disciplinary action; and (2) to prevent extra-billing, not only during the current dispute but also forever afterwards?

2:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Clearly, if this government wanted more unrest in the health care community at this time, then it would do exactly what the honourable member is suggesting we do in terms of stopping extra-billing. If the member suggests that what we want is more disruption in the system and more unhappy doctors taking more strike action—

Mr. Foulds: You're going to give away the store, the way the Liberals suggested.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Relax. Just listen to the answer. I am sure that, deep down, the member wants this thing to be resolved and to be resolved peacefully.

Mr. Martel: How? What is that word, "peacefully"?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: To do that, this would be the inappropriate time to do anything about extra-billing, given the current situation as of today's date.

On the member's first question with regard to whether I ought to pass an order in council classifying some of the job action as unprofessional, I say two things. First, I really cannot reconcile how the member's party can advocate that position when it advocates that doctors be given the right to strike. Does the member think they should be given the right to strike by legislation and then, at the same time, amend other legislation, saying, "But if you exercise that right to strike, you will lose your licence to practice"? What is the New Democratic Party position on that question?

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: You are on record; that's right. That is what the record says. In fact, that exemplifies the difficulty in dealing with this area.

I want to make our position absolutely clear. At present, patient care has not been threatened. I have a number of powers under the legislation and I am still hopeful that I will not have to exercise those powers, because I believe, given all the options, most doctors in this province will not threaten the health of their patients.

At present, if the health of any patient in this province is threatened I can, without any amendment to the legislation, take all appropriate steps necessary, with or without the College of Physicians and Surgeons, to ensure that patient care is protected. Patient care, in fact, will be protected.

Mr. Nixon: Backing off the college a little today?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: No, I am not. If you want to ask a supplementary, you will find out.

Mr. Peterson: Does the minister believe that a general walkout will threaten the health of patients in this province?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Quite clearly, there are all sorts of ways the OMA can handle a general walkout. I would have to wait and see how they intend to stage it, what kind of procedures they are going to put in place, how many days they might intend to carry it out, and just how they are going to meet their clear obligation to protect patient care, before I could answer a general question such as the one the Leader of the Opposition put.

Fundamentally, if the Leader of the Opposition wants to put the proposition that this government should do a number of things to make sure a general walkout does not happen, then it is incumbent upon him, in all sincerity, to tell us how much he thinks we should pay to avert that; or, in the alternative, what pieces of legislation he thinks we should bring in— perhaps compulsory arbitration, as his Health critic advocated the other day. Just what is his recommendation?

At present, in exercising my responsibility to run the system, we are negotiating in good faith and continuing to negotiate in good faith, putting all sorts of options to the OMA in good faith and protecting patient care by taking all appropriate steps when patient care seems to be threatened. That is the proper way to handle this matter; it is the way I will continue to handle the matter.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I have had trouble understanding the minister's confusion with respect to our position, which is that a doctors' strike is intolerable and should be regarded as professional misconduct. I do not understand what is unclear about that.

Let me ask the minister whether he intends to permit what was stated by him to be intolerable before he permitted it to happen last week; that is, a walkout at the Hospital for Sick Children. Does he intend to sit there as the OMA threat-

ens and then carries out a larger walkout which will affect, among other hospitals and services, the Sick Children's Hospital?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, let me answer that in two distinct parts. First, I will read the honourable member the answer to his opening remarks. " 'Doctors should not be allowed to bill their patients more than medicare pays, but they should be allowed to strike for higher fees. You would have to face the possibility that doctors would withdraw their services.' But he"—the member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy)—"said that aside from the police, 'there is nobody so essential that they should be denied complete bargaining rights, including the right to withdraw services.' "

That is the position of the member's party. That was said on February 7, 1981. Perhaps his new leader, or his acting leader, wants to disavow the position of his party which says that doctors—

Mr. McClellan: Twice today I have stated what our position was.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I know the member is sweating today. To use the member for Ottawa Centre's words, the position is that doctors should be allowed to withdraw services.

Mr. Martel: You are the one who imposes settlement.

Mr. McClellan: It is your strike.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Tough day, isn't it? I understand the member's discomfort with his party's position that doctors should be given the right to withdraw services.

Mr. McClellan: I stated it today.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: They are not my words. They are the member for Ottawa Centre's words, and they look good on the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan). Those are his words, and the member will have to live with them.

The member asked how it is that we could allow the situation last week. The member should think through the proposition he is putting. The member is putting the proposition that, if we had only changed the law last week, then the doctors, rather than break the law, would have performed the operations at the Hospital for Sick Children. That is as opposed to doctors being unwilling to threaten the health of their patients and therefore going ahead with operations.

In other words, the member is telling me he believes doctors will respond only to the threat of being put in jail for breaking the law; that is

the only thing they will listen to and they will not respond to the health care needs of their patients.

It is my belief that doctors are far more concerned about the health of their patients than they are about a piece of government legislation which will perhaps cause them to be fined or imprisoned. If we are in a situation in which the medical community in this province does not care about the health of patients, then we have large problems. I do not believe we are at that point.

I believe that what keeps doctors at work in this province is not a piece of government legislation but the fact they will not do anything that will risk the health of their patients. I rely upon their dedication to their patients although they want more money and although they are prepared to take job action. I think their devotion to the health of their patients is far more powerful than any threat that they will be imprisoned or fined.

RESIDENTIAL GAS PRICE INCREASES

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Premier (Mr. Davis), I will ask a question of the Chairman of Management Board. Almost a month ago, I believe, the cabinet received a petition on behalf of the gas consumers of Ontario under section 30 of the Ontario Energy Board Act from members of this caucus. Why has there been no reply to that petition?

Can the minister explain any steps the government has taken to reduce or postpone the unprecedented increase of 32 per cent awarded to Consumers' Gas and similar increases awarded to Northern and Central Gas which have raised the average residential bill, according to Consumers' Gas spokesmen themselves, from \$657.02 in February 1981 to \$870.64 in February 1982?

Hon. Mr. McCague: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member will know that when those petitions come to cabinet they are circulated for comment to any ministries that may be interested. Actually, the legal work on them is done by a chap in the Ministry of the Attorney General. It would be normal that it would take at least a couple of months for the facts to be put before cabinet and for it to be in a position to consider it.

Mr. Foulds: The preliminary facts at least are readily available, not only from the companies involved but also from the Ontario Energy Board itself. When the federal government has given the three major gas distribution companies in this province some \$19 million in outright

grants to broaden the distribution system, will the minister not admit that the award of a 65 per cent markup on top of wholesale gas costs and taxes is unwarranted and unjustified?

When the people and the businesses of this province, aside from the gas distribution companies and the banks, are being asked to engage in restraint, does the minister not think that it is about time his government took some action to protect the consumers of the province instead of protecting Consumers' Gas?

2:30 p.m.

Hon. Mr. McCague: Mr. Speaker, I will be pleased to note the comments the honourable member has made, but he will know full well that I am not in any position to comment on this until it has been dealt with by cabinet.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, does the minister not realize the urgency in this matter with the tremendous increase in home heating gas bills? Does he not think he would expedite this whole process when people have had these kinds of increases, when we find that the Kitchener-Waterloo area, which supplies the gas municipally, has rates 15 per cent lower than Consumers' Gas and Kingston four per cent lower?

In view of the fact that this year we had a much colder winter than we have had in previous years and that the figures on gas consumption show that these gas companies are going to get a tremendous increase in revenue without any increase in rates, does the minister not think it is worth investigating and worth investigating immediately?

Hon. Mr. McCague: Again, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the comments included in that, and we will deal with it as quickly as possible.

PCBs IN LEGISLATIVE BUILDING

Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. I stood in my place earlier on a point of privilege concerning polychlorinated biphenyls. Given the real danger that exists here at Queen's Park with respect to approximately 3,500 litres of PCBs, which are in three electrical transformers here in the building, and given the fact that there was a minor fire involving PCBs on Adelaide Street in December 1977 and putting this into perspective with respect to what happened in Binghamton, New York, in 1981, could the Minister of the Environment advise this House what he has done to ensure the safety of all those who work in the building as either members or staff and of

those who visit the building in case there is some problem with the PCB-filled transformers?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member will recall that when his former leader raised the matter in the House in the previous Parliament he received at that time, I thought, a rather full report from the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Wiseman) as to the conditions under which the PCBs exist in this building. As I recall, the original concern was raised about an apparent leak, or what had been perceived by one of the member's research staff as a leak. I think he explained how it appeared to be there because of the regular testing procedures that are undertaken with respect to the quality of the PCBs in the transformer.

The minister also pointed out, as I recall, that the transformer was in a secure area in a room which has a completely separate air circulation system from the rest of the building. Therefore, if something were to occur in that secure area, it would not become part of the regular air circulation system of this building, and this is itself, I am sure, a major form of protection. He pointed out as well that the transformers are diked and that if there should ever be an unexpected leak there is far more than enough capacity within the dike to contain all of the PCBs in the transformers.

Given all that information, I wonder why the member should raise the matter again at this time. I do not know whether any additional information is available through the Minister of Government Services at this time or not, but the advice we received at that time from those people on our staff and, I believe, from the Ministry of Labour staff—the medical group from that ministry was involved as well—advised that it was really quite a safe and secure situation.

Mr. Elston: I suppose I really raised the question with respect to these particular PCBs because the record of the involvement of the Minister of the Environment with those PCBs and dealing with the problem there is basically the same as it has been in dealing with PCBs in the province.

It is four years since the Adelaide Street PCB fire and over three years since PCBs were banned in Canada for use in new transformers. Could the minister explain why, over the past four years, his ministry has still not approved a PCB destruction technology for over six million litres of PCBs which are in use in over 5,700 PCB transformers in Ontario? When is he going to go beyond the funding of two researchers for

prototype units which, to this date, have not destroyed more than a few grams of PCBs? When is he going to get serious about dealing with this technology?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am glad at least that the honourable member is prepared to acknowledge that we have been funding, with very substantial sums of money, the research of the two pieces of technology to which he refers, one being a plasma arc and the other a plasma torch, which are progressing. In fact, one is at a stage now where they are developing from the prototype a larger model which would be necessary.

Mr. Kerrio: That was two or three ministers ago.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I do not know how much research the member for Niagara Falls has done. Sometimes it is not possible to do it overnight.

There is another Ontario-developed technology, I suppose one might say, that the member might be referring to, with which the Ontario government and the federal government have now agreed to do a test burn. We had staff present at the experimental testing of that unit when it was in England and we are now preparing to follow up jointly with the federal government for a test here.

If one understands the technology involved, there was a very significant concern about the question of the temperature which would be reached by that method of combustion. If one also understands some of the chemistry involved, the temperature at which the combustion takes place plus the retention time is critically important in terms of efficiency of burns. If we had hastily gone forward with a particular technology without knowing fully what the answers are to those questions, I am sure the member would have been the first one on his feet in this Legislature, criticizing us for not fully investigating all of the possible ramifications of a new technology before putting it in place.

We have consistently taken a responsible approach. We are exploring all possible avenues. In fact, I recently had meetings with some other people who have a technology developed which appears to maybe be even more advanced than any of the three others we are talking about. We are looking at that one as well.

Mr. Charlton: Mr. Speaker, to come back to the original portion of the question about the transformers themselves, it is clear that the old transformers are the problem and the new transformers are capable of correcting the prob-

lem of the potential danger of the PCBs in electric transformers. Does the minister have or is he prepared to take on any program of stepping up the replacement of those old and very dangerous transformers?

Hon. Mr. Norton: It is not really a question of the age of any given transformer; it is a question of the insulating material which is used in the transformer. We are looking at the possibility of a safe means of replacing PCBs as the insulating fluid with others, but that is not yet complete.

USE OF STRIKEBREAKERS

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a question for the Solicitor General. The minister is aware that we have asked for a full public inquiry into the activities of Securicor Investigation and Security Ltd. Inasmuch as he has not yet agreed to the need for such a public inquiry, can the minister assure the House that the scope of the Ontario Provincial Police investigation is broad enough to cover strikes where this company or a satellite company appear to have been involved?

Will the investigation include the following companies: Elk Lake Planing Mills, Bata Industries Ltd., Canada Cement Lafarge Ltd., Texport Division of Oxford Warehousing Ltd., Arrowhead Metals Ltd., Rolph-Clark-Stone Ltd., Lawson Packaging Division, Reid Dominion Packaging Ltd., Wardair, Cara food services, Irwin Toy, Dominion Citrus and Drugs Ltd., Automotive Hardware, Boise Cascade, International Waxes Ltd., Maple Lodge Farms, K Mart, Dominion Dairies, Drug Trading, Canadian Canners Ltd. in Simcoe, the Ontario College of Art, Lancia-Bravo Foods, Kwikasair Express Ltd. and General Aviation Services Ltd.

2:40 p.m.

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I will get the names mentioned by the member for Hamilton East from Hansard and will ask the Ontario Provincial Police to ascertain whether the activities of those companies warrant investigation. I will report back to the member following the inquiries by the OPP.

I understand from the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) that the main company mentioned will appear before the Ontario Labour Relations Board tomorrow. There may be something coming out of that to report as well.

Mr. Mackenzie: The minister will realize, of course, that that company represents just one name on a long list. Perhaps he will also be aware that considerable sums of money are involved in this dirty business.

In one of the strike situations I have mentioned, that between the United Cement, Lime and Gypsum Workers, Local 368, and Canada Cement Lafarge Ltd., the payout to Securicor was as follows: For October 16 to 26, a little better than a week, \$87,668.98; October 22 to November 7, \$87,635.87; November 3 to November 9, \$88,651.44; November 10 to 16, \$100,523.95; November 17 to 23, \$113,117.49; November 27 to termination, \$90,216, plus five back invoices for one of the small auxiliary units for five weeks at \$25,956 a week.

The total in that one strike alone amounted to \$697,593.73. Will the minister's request to the OPP include an investigation of the costs and the bidding practices that are involved in these matters?

Hon. G. W. Taylor: In answer to the first question, I have no knowledge of the costs apart from some figures which the honourable member showed me last week as having been paid to Securicor in a particular transfer. I am not aware of any other transfers of funds to Securicor in payment of their services.

As to the OPP investigation, it would not, and at this point does not, include the amounts of sums and fees paid for the services such companies are offering.

Mr. Speaker: Before we move on to a new question, the Solicitor General has the answer to a question previously asked.

SAFETY OF PUBLIC BUILDING

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, on April 15 the member for London North (Mr. Van Horne) asked me about recommendations which resulted from the inquest of December 8, 1981, into the death of 18-month-old Randy Winter, who fell from a staircase in London's Centennial Hall.

Under section 4 of the Coroners Act, it is the responsibility of the chief coroner to bring the findings and recommendations of coroners' juries to the attention of appropriate persons, agencies and ministries of government. The three recommendations made by the jury in the Winter inquest were directed by the chief coroner to those agencies with the authority to implement them, namely, the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the city of London and the manager of London's Centennial Hall. The recommendations were also sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

While the chief coroner does not have the power to ensure that recommendations are acted on, he has since been advised that modifi-

cations were made to the railings of the stairways of Centennial Hall to improve their safety, one of the recommendations of the coroner's inquest at that particular time.

SALES TAX ON TOURISM AND INDUSTRY

Mr. Eakins: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. This is my first question to him and I want to congratulate him on his appointment and to associate myself with the creation of the new ministry, which as you know, Mr. Speaker, was one of the recommendations of the Liberal task force on tourism even though it was not supported by the former minister, the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman).

Has the minister been made aware of some of the unfortunate effects that have surfaced as a result of the reimposition of the provincial sales tax on accommodation? Surely the minister must know by now that the hotel people are not the sole beneficiaries of a healthy tourism industry and that any threat to this industry's wellbeing will result in lost business, lost revenue and lost jobs at a time when the economy of our province needs them most. Has the minister realized the impact of the reinstatement of the accommodation tax and has he made representation to the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) to deal with this matter in his upcoming budget?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Mr. Speaker, first of all, I do appreciate the kind comments made by my Liberal critic and I do hope we can work together in a very constructive manner. On the question of the imposition of room tax, I am fully aware of some of the concern that has been expressed by the tourism industry on this, by the resort operators and so forth. I have conveyed that to my colleague the Treasurer.

I would remind the member opposite that this tax, which has now been reimposed, is not something that came out of the blue. It was quite expected. For some two years we have been told it would be reintroduced. On behalf of the tourism industry I have certainly made these concerns known to the Treasurer, as I said, and I am sure he, in his great wisdom, is going to take whatever is the wisest and most equitable step possible on the whole question of taxation of tourism facilities.

Mr. Eakins: Does the minister not agree that the absence of this tax has been a powerful attraction to large United States conventions deciding to meet here and that the loss of this incentive will severely limit our ability to com-

pete with other jurisdictions and will be a further barrier to new business at a time when the new Metro Convention Centre is being constructed?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Mr. Speaker, we are certainly by no means the only jurisdiction that has imposed a somewhat similar tax on these kinds of tourism facilities. While I can recognize that nobody at any time at any place ever wants to pay additional taxes, I do think it must be said that as far as the end result is concerned it has not dampened tourism here in Ontario. Over the last few years and in terms of future bookings the tourism industry is one industry that continues to be very vibrant. But, as I said, I have already and I will once again, as a result of this question today, make sure my colleague the Treasurer is fully aware of the feelings among the tourist operators about this room tax.

PUBLIC COMMERCIAL VEHICLE LICENCES

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Transportation and Communications. Is the minister aware that Canadian Priority Transfer has been carrying on a major commercial transportation operation for several years without a public commercial vehicle licence and still carries on, although the minister was informed of this at least as long ago as last autumn?

This company uses various and devious means such as rented commercial vehicles even though these vehicles themselves do not have PCV licences. The motor vehicle licensing section of the ministry knows these rentals are taking place and has it on record. Why has the ministry not prosecuted and when will it get around to enforcing its own act?

2:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, the answer to the first part of the question is no, so obviously I cannot answer the rest.

Mr. Swart: When the minister is looking into this, will he recognize that section 3 of the PCV act prohibits anyone from entering into an agreement with an unlicensed operator for the transportation of goods? Will he then investigate a contract awarded by the Ontario Ministry of Health to this illegally operating company? The tender number was SCS-536. It runs for the period from June 1, 1981, to May 31, 1982. Will the minister prosecute the Ministry of Health if he finds the law has been broken by it?

Hon. Mr. Snow: By all means.

DISPOSAL OF PCBs

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, following the exchange between my colleague and the Minister of the Environment about polychlorinated biphenyls, I wonder if he can explain why he, his predecessor and the rest of the government were so anxious to impose a special PCB repository on an emergency basis in my constituency without any sort of a hearing involved when now he is prepared to say we must go slowly and examine our alternatives?

The minister may recall that his predecessor decided not to foist several hundred thousand gallons of PCBs on the unwilling citizens of Onondaga township because he had come to what he calls the final solution of industrial waste disposal in South Cayuga. That has drifted off too. In both of those instances no public hearings were permitted and the environmental review was to be set aside. Why does the minister now say, in the light of all those actions which were going to be imposed on the people of Ontario, he must go more slowly and not jump into any decisions to dispose of these PCBs?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I think the honourable member has clearly misunderstood or perhaps misconstrued what I said. I did not say I was slowing down.

Mr. Nixon: You never got going.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Oh, yes. We are making tremendous progress. The critic from the member's caucus was raising questions, and without naming the specific technology I think I know what he was talking about. He raised some concern about the fact that this particular technology was at one point tested in Great Britain.

I was simply pointing out to him that it is important before we proceed with any particular technology for us to be able to assure the people it is an efficient and safe technology. That is all I said. I am not suggesting we are slowing anything down. In fact, we are speeding it up.

Mr. Nixon: Surely the minister could understand I would have some feelings of frustration when his predecessor was prepared to foist all this business—\$5.5 million of temporary storage—on the people of my constituency and then abandoned it for South Cayuga.

In all of that time, the technology best suited to solving the minister's continuing problem exists at the Royal Military College in his own constituency, where the plasma arc has been

proved and developed with money from his own government, from the taxpayers of Ontario; yet he still seems unwilling to move it into a situation where he could give it any sort of a valid test using quantities of PCBs.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Again I think the honourable member has a misconception with respect to the state of the development of both the plasma arc and the plasma torch. Both are progressing, but to state that the plasma arc is developed to the point where it could be employed tomorrow for the destruction of quantities of PCBs is not correct.

In fact, those two developments are still under way. The one the member refers to at the Royal Military College is moving into sort of a second phase where they are attempting to develop a larger model for burning larger quantities. That then has to be tested to ensure that the efficiency of the burn with those volumes is sufficiently efficient to be used on an ongoing basis. We have recently put very substantial additional sums of money into furthering the research on both of those.

FAMILY BENEFITS

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Community and Social Services and it has to do with the potential transfer proposed by his ministry of family benefits recipients to general welfare. Is the minister aware that at the present time there are approximately 3,000 applications for family benefits in Metropolitan Toronto, some as old as eight months? They are sitting at 2195 Yonge Street waiting for file numbers to be assigned. They are being held up instead of being transferred to family benefits at this time and, therefore, those people are receiving less money than they should at this point.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, Mr. Speaker. If there are any undue delays on family benefit applications, it is not because of that. As a matter of fact, I discussed a number of cases like that with the Metro chairman and his finance commissioner some time ago to get all of them speeded up.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: What is the reason then for the delay? Why are there 3,000 people unnecessarily on general welfare receipts at this point? Is it because the ministry is not replacing workers in terms of case loads for family benefits? Is it not the case that in the Toronto office there are four case loads or approximately 1,200 to 1,400 recipients who are not being covered at this point?

Hon. Mr. Drea: There have been no cutdowns. There has been nothing at all in the way of any change in dealing with family benefits recipients in Metropolitan Toronto since my time. I have to tell the member Metro Toronto is not even being considered for one of the pilot projects.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, in the general area of delays for family benefit recipients, can the minister tell us if there is going to be any attempt to expedite the Social Assistance Review Board procedures in order to unload a certain number of general welfare cases? There are cases right now that take a long time to be heard. Ultimately, of course, it takes a long time for them to be switched over from general welfare assistance to the Family Benefits Act.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, obviously I do not have any control over the hearing schedules of the Social Assistance Review Board since it is an independent agency. However, the new chairman, who was appointed some six or seven weeks ago, has requested additional members on the Social Assistance Review Board so the case loads can be speeded up, and these are in the process of being appointed.

I would draw to the attention of the honourable member that quite frequently one of the causes for delay is a medical definition. If the medical definition is not forthcoming immediately, it lends itself to that type of thing. With the elimination of the two categories in the disabled field, the permanently unemployable and the disabled, even the medical definitions should be speeded up quite a bit.

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I have another question for the Minister of Community and Social Services. So far I have received 67 letters from parents of children enlisted in the Children's Listening Centre of North York, all imploring my intervention to save the listening centre. I could read some of them to the minister, but in trying to save time I will not do that.

I would like to point out to the minister that on February 9, 1982, the mayor of North York advised board of control that the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) stated there was no doubt of the excellent service provided by the Children's Listening Centre. It is the only centre of its kind in Ontario and, according to an evaluation done last year by the Ministry of Community and Social Services, it provides first-class service. Can the minister tell us if

there have been any recent developments in trying to save the centre since my leader asked this question about a month ago?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I am glad the member recalls that his leader asked me about this at some length a couple of weeks ago. I thought I made the position plain then, but just in case I did not, I will do it again.

3 p.m.

First of all, in conjunction with that children's mental health centre, it was never funded by the province of Ontario.

Second, last year both my predecessor and I, in an effort to have them maintain their services, did provide some standby funds. The reason was that we thought the federal minister was going to agree this year that children's mental health centres could be funded partially by the Canada assistance program. In February, I was told by the federal minister that this was impossible.

The Children's Listening Centre of North York at the same time had said they would continue their relationship in funding with the doctors who served there, as they always had, and that because of the additional time my predecessor and I had provided they were considering a fund-raising drive. When they were told that the possibility of additional funding for children's mental health centres under the Canada assistance program was not in the cards, they made their decision.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, could the minister tell us why the report by Dr. Naomi Rae-Grant on how useful this centre would be has not yet been made public? I understand the directors of the centre have asked for this report and it has not yet been made available to them. Will it be made available, and if not, why not?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, in the first place the only reason my predecessor and I ever even gave them standby money was on the basis of that report. It was my understanding that the directors of that centre did have access to that report.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Drea: They certainly talk about it enough for people who have never seen it, my friend.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Exactly, because your people say it is good.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I will take a look and see where it is, but they keep quoting from it. If they have never seen it, why do they quote from it?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, will the minister table that report in the House at his earliest convenience? Will he give us some good reason why he will not reopen negotiations now and try to find some means of maintaining the listening centre through provincial funds instead of taking the same line all the government members are taking and putting it on to the federal scene as their responsibility for not handling it under CAP?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I thought I had made it very clear that this centre was never funded by the province.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I never said it was; I know it is not. I said it should be.

Hon. Mr. Drea: The reason is the same one I gave the member when he said, "Fund it with your 19 per cent" some time ago. He sometimes forgets what he says in here.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I said make it 20 per cent if necessary, but fund it.

Hon. Mr. Drea: The very fundamental reason is that we told the Children's Listening Centre last year and throughout this year that we would be stretching our resources to the utmost for the existing children's mental health centres in and around Toronto and the ones I had to open somewhere else. They knew that.

I will table the report. I have never had any problems with it. The member quotes from it, has he not seen it?

ROYAL CONNAUGHT HOTEL DISPUTE

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Is he aware of the legal strike by some 90 employees, mostly women, members of Local 756 of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees' and Bartenders' International Union at the Royal Connaught Hotel in Hamilton? Is he aware that in an organized city like Hamilton these employees—at wages of \$2.90 for waiters and waitresses, \$3.38 for bartenders, \$3.50 for maids, \$3.50 for bell captains and \$5.07 for maintenance workers—are among the lowest paid if not the lowest paid of any organized workers in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the circumstances of that particular labour dispute.

Mr. Mackenzie: Will the minister take the necessary steps to see that meaningful bargaining starts to take place in this situation and the exploitation of these workers is stopped?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: The conciliation services

of my ministry are quite anxious to be involved in this particular dispute and bring it to a satisfactory conclusion as soon as possible.

DISPOSAL OF PCBs

Mr. Kennedy: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of the Environment on the destruction of polychlorinated byphenyls. Apart from the techniques discussed earlier in question period, is the minister still pursuing the possibility of a site to destruct PCBs along the lines of that which was to be set up in South Cayuga with the \$60-million installation of that equipment?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, as members will recall, the legislation which was passed almost a year ago in the Legislature mandated the Ontario Waste Management Corp. to pursue the location of a site for the establishment of a safe treatment facility in Ontario. They are continuing to do that.

I do not have at my fingertips information on the number of sites they may be looking at. I do have plans to meet in the very near future with Dr. Chant to discuss the progress that the corporation is making. I might be in a better position to respond more fully following that briefing from Dr. Chant.

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker, how far did the minister put back the program when that very member who asked the question put up such a fight not to have the tests run in the kilns in Mississauga? How far did that put the ministry's tests back in order to deal with this very serious problem?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, actually those tests were very productive and very helpful.

Mr. Kerrio: He would not let you run them in Mississauga.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I learned last summer when I was in Scandinavia the technology that was developed in Mississauga is now being extensively used over there.

The principal method of destroying PCBs in Scandinavia is by burning them in cement kilns. In the course of one of my meetings with some scientists in Sweden, they raised that very point and paid great tribute to Ontario for pioneering the technology which they are now using so extensively. In fact, they asked how we were making out in Mississauga and I said we were not allowed to use it here.

AUTOMOBILE ADVERTISING

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of

the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. Could the minister share information with the House and many interested citizens about the mileage figures that are given in new car ads? Whether it is miles per gallon or litres per hundred kilometres, whichever the Tories are going to support, would the minister tell me how accurate those figures are because I think they are very confusing to the general public? Is the automobile industry not using them to get the average citizen to buy automobiles that do not produce the mileages that they advertise?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I had not heard that criticism of those advertisements before. It may be because that it is a matter that is the responsibility of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs in the federal government. If the member has in his possession valid reason to suggest there is misleading advertising going on in those ads, he should give it to me today.

Mr. Kerrio: I am giving it to him right now, because we cannot believe what the ads tell us and we are very liable to get less mileage than is advertised. They say it right in the ads.

This is a question I ask of the minister: When is he going to take the initiative to save energy and set up a test track or have these people verify what they tell the general public they can expect for the automobiles they want to sell here? Why does the minister not take the initiative in this jurisdiction? It is not done anywhere else.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I am pleased to hear the member suggest that we duplicate the federal efforts in this area. I am sure he would like to speak to his leader about that area with respect to duplicative costs. Is it his party's policy now to duplicate costs wherever necessary in order to waste money? Is that the new policy?

CONSTITUTIONAL CELEBRATIONS

Mr. Nixon: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I regret very much that during the statements the Premier did not see fit to give us a report on his activities over the weekend. Since he is now a Privy Councillor, I for one feel I would like to convey to him my congratulations and to ask the Speaker why there was not at least one staff member from the Office of the Assembly, if no one else, who could have held an umbrella over the poor fellow when he was sitting out there in the rain.

I feel we have not been supporting him suitably in some of these activities. All we really

learn about these important things is from the gossip columns in the *Toronto Sun*, which is not entirely adequate, but interesting.

3:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I do want to thank the very distinguished member for his observations and I really accept in a very constructive way his suggestion there should have been some officer of the assembly with an umbrella. I would only say that I have never carried an umbrella. It was a mild day. The rain was pleasant. I could think of the farmers in Peel and how they were delighted it would assist them with their agricultural activity, so I was really just saying a blessing.

I also went equipped in case it was a torrential downpour, but like the member who asked the question—who always acts in deference to his spouse; I have seen that over the years here—when my wife said to me, “It is either me wearing your hat and getting to the luncheon afterwards or not wearing it and going alone,” what choice did I have? I can only say this, if members want to convey to their wives that my wife is prepared to tell them how she is setting a new style in women’s hats, she would be delighted to share it with their spouses.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Harry Worton wants to know whether it was a Biltmore or not.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Yes, I think it was a Biltmore.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, I have a point of order related to standing order 81(d), the tabling and answering of written questions. You will note that I tabled on March 31 a series of questions, numbers 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23, which, according to the rules, should have been answered at least with an interim answer by April 15 at the latest. We have yet to receive any interim answers. I would like you to look into this and determine whether or not the cabinet is living by the rules of this House.

VISITOR

Mr. Speaker: Just before proceeding, I notice sitting in the shadows a former minister and a farmer who cannot get on the land as yet. William Stewart is in the Speaker’s gallery. Perhaps somebody should turn the lights on there and we could see more readily who sits there. Nice to see you again.

COUNCIL FOR FRANCO-ONTARIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. Piché: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privi-

lege: Last Friday the member for Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria) questioned the appointment of one of my constituents as a member of the Council for Franco-Ontarian Affairs, suggesting that influence was exerted on the cabinet to ensure that one of my friends was selected for that position. While I am flattered that the member feels I have some influence at the cabinet level, there are undoubtedly a number of ministers who could straighten him out on that point.

In actual fact, I did support the suggestion for the appointment made in this case, but it was made on the basis of the qualifications of the individual involved and certainly not because of any particular relationship or political affiliation. It is important that this matter be cleared up since the new member of the council, Mr. Maurice Deschamps of Kapuskasing, is ideally suited to represent the interests of French-speaking residents in northern Ontario and across this province.

Mr. Deschamps not only has an extensive background in municipal government in various administrative positions but he has also been deeply involved for many years as a volunteer in community activities. If the person who wrote the newspaper article referred to by the member for Prescott-Russell had taken the trouble to do some research in the riding of Cochrane North, she would have learned immediately that Mr. Deschamps is a very well-known and well-respected citizen who has repeatedly demonstrated his willingness to work effectively for the betterment of his town and the north in general.

Frankly, I am honoured to be able to recommend an individual of that calibre—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would you resume your seat please? I did not hear a point of privilege, with all respect. You rose on a point of privilege. I would have to hear it.

Mr. Piché: I am getting to the point of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: I would ask you to get to your point of privilege immediately.

Mr. Piché: Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to be able to recommend an individual of that calibre for appointment to a body with province-wide influence. I am convinced that Mr. Deschamps will be an excellent representative of French-speaking residents, and I hope there will be a further opportunity to recommend other qualified people from Cochrane North to sit on provincially sponsored organizations. It should

also be noted that since Mr. Deschamps is replacing another resident of the Kapuskasing area on the Council for Franco-Ontarian Affairs, the member for Prescott-Russell is incorrect in suggesting there is a shifting of regional representation on this particular appointment.

Finally, I would respectfully suggest that all members of the Legislature are well qualified to recommend citizens from their respective ridings for provincial appointments. It is all part of knowing what is happening in our own areas, and even the member for Prescott-Russell must admit that such knowledge is an important aspect of earning a seat in this House.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure we are all very pleased to have that point straightened out. Thank you very much.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, may I respond to that point of privilege very briefly?

Mr. Speaker: Do you have to?

Mr. Boudria: Yes, sir. I will be very brief, but I believe I do have a point of privilege. Obviously the member for Cochrane North used my name, and he also said I was wrong, that I had given information to this House that was not accurate. I never said any such thing as the member has insinuated. I merely quoted in this House—you, sir, may want to verify this in Hansard—a copy of the Ottawa newspaper *Le Droit*, asked the minister if he was aware of it and asked him to comment on what was in that particular newspaper article.

I did not in any way discuss the qualifications or Mr. Deschamps's validity as a candidate for this particular office, since I do not know Mr. Deschamps nor any other person from the riding of Cochrane North. I merely reported what was in that newspaper article and asked the minister to reply to that comment.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. That was a point of privilege.

The member for Sudbury East with what?

Mr. Martel: A point of order, Mr. Speaker: I want to know if there is now a new rule in the rule book that ascribes this time of the day as the commentary period?

Mr. Speaker: That is hardly a point of order, but it is an interesting point. I called the member to order, as you may remember, and I distinctly heard a voice on the opposition side say, "Let him continue." I took it we had the consensus of the House.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

TRIBUNALS CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACT

Mr. Philip moved, seconded by Mr. Grande, first reading of Bill 65, An Act to prevent Conflicts of Interest in the Proceedings of Administrative Tribunals.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Piché: Vous avez mis en question la réputation de M. Deschamps.

Mr. Martel: Get up on a point of order. Get up on something with some substance.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Sudbury East is violating the very order he drew to my attention.

Mr. Martel: That is called an interjection.

Mr. Speaker: They are also out of order.

3:20 p.m.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, this bill prohibits former members and officers of tribunals, subject to Part I of the Statutory Powers Procedure Act, from acting as advocates before those bodies for a two-year period after ceasing to hold their positions, the same restriction is imposed on former ministers and deputy ministers in connection with tribunals under the administration of their former ministries. The maximum penalty is \$10,000.

I introduced this in the last session; unfortunately, the government still has not adopted it, so I must reintroduce it.

LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved, seconded by Mr. Breaugh, first reading of Bill 66, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to repeal a provision of the act that prohibits the inclusion of security guards in a bargaining unit. The repeal of this provision would permit security guards to join or establish an association or union for collective bargaining purposes.

LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved, seconded by Mr. Breaugh, first reading of Bill 67, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of

this bill is to delete the exclusion of persons who exercise managerial functions from the definition of "employee." The effect of the amendment is to permit those persons to join or establish an association or union for collective bargaining purposes.

CROWN EMPLOYEES COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved, seconded by Mr. Breaugh, first reading of Bill 68, An Act to amend the Crown Employees Collective Bargaining Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to repeal certain provisions of the Crown Employees Collective Bargaining Act that restrict the composition of collective agreements negotiated under the act.

DISABLED PERSONS EMPLOYMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved, seconded by Mr. Breaugh, first reading of Bill 69, An Act to provide for the Employment of Disabled Persons.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill is to provide employment opportunities for disabled persons. The bill requires that employers hire disabled persons and that disabled persons constitute at least three per cent of the employer's work force.

The bill permits the minister to vary this percentage requirement in cases where the minister considers another quota to be more suitable. In addition, the minister may exempt an employer or class of employers from the operation of the statute. The bill establishes a registrar of employable disabled persons to be maintained by the ministry for the purpose of facilitating efforts by employers to meet the quotas established by the bill.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved, seconded by Mr. Breaugh, first reading of Bill 70, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to ensure that no employee engaged in the preparation or service of food in a tavern, restaurant, hotel, motel or tourist resort, may be required as a term or condition of employment to work while nude or partially nude.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved, seconded by Mr. Breaugh, first reading of Bill 71, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill is to require an employer to provide a leave of absence to any employee who has been elected to provincial or municipal office so that the employee may be able to carry out duties as an elected official.

LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved, seconded by Mr. Breaugh, first reading of Bill 72, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to clarify that the Labour Relations Act applies to employees who are engaged in agricultural employment in an industrial or factory setting.

LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved, seconded by Mr. Breaugh, first reading of Bill 73, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill is to reduce the percentage of employees in a bargaining unit required to be members of a trade union in order for the board to direct the representation vote.

3:30 p.m.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved, seconded by Mr. Breaugh, first reading of Bill 74, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill is to extend the application of part XII of the Employment Standards Act to employees who are employed for a definite term or task and to persons who are laid off or terminated during or as a result of a strike or lockout at his place of employment, in effect, to deal with contract employees.

LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved, seconded by Mr.

Breaugh, first reading of Bill 75, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, this is an important one. The purpose of the bill is to preserve the collective bargaining rights of employees of a business that is relocated. In addition to continuing pre-relocation bargaining rights in collective agreements in force after the relocation, the proposed amendment provides for a 60-day period from the date of notice of relocation during which an employee can choose to continue his employment at the new location. Once the relocation has taken place, the Ontario Labour Relation Board has authority to determine whether or not a bargaining unit exists.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved, seconded by Mr. Breaugh, first reading of Bill 76, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, this is the first bill I moved as a member back in 1975 and we still do not have it. The purpose of the bill is to reduce the standard work week in Ontario from 48 hours to 40 hours and to require employers to pay overtime rates for work done in excess of 40 hours per week rather than the 44 hours that now exists.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved, seconded by Mr. Breaugh, first reading of Bill 77, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill is to protect the employment of an employee who attempts to enforce the provisions of this or any other act or who testifies or otherwise participates in a proceeding or hearing under this or any other act before a court of law.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved, seconded by Mr. Breaugh, first reading of Bill 78, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to establish a standard relating to the

installation and operation of electronic surveillance systems in places of employment. The bill permits the installation of these systems only where it is reasonably necessary for the protection of the health or safety of employees. The onus of establishing that the installation and operation of a surveillance system are reasonably necessary for this purpose is placed on the employer.

LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved, seconded by Mr. Breaugh, first reading of Bill 79, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill is to clarify the status of an employer before the Ontario Labour Relations Board on an application for certification by a trade union. The employer is permitted to present evidence and make submissions concerning several matters listed in the bill; the employer is not permitted to present evidence or make submissions related to any other matter before the hearing.

LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved, seconded by Mr. Breaugh, first reading of Bill 80, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, this is another important and needed piece of legislation. The purpose of the bill is to provide the Ontario Labour Relations Board with authority to settle the terms and conditions of a first collective agreement between a trade union and an employer where the dispute settlement procedures in the act have not been effective. Effective collective agreements settled by the board shall have a duration of between one and two years. . .

LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved, seconded by Mr. Breaugh, first reading of Bill 81, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to prevent the hiring of strikebreakers and to control access to work premises that are affected by a strike or lockout. The bill prohibits an employer from hiring or using the services of a person to do the work of an employee who is on strike or locked out unless that person is specifically authorized to do so. Similarly, when

a picket line is established at a place of access to work premises, access is limited to persons specifically authorized by the bill.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved, seconded by Mr. Breaugh, first reading of Bill 82, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, this is another bill that exists in many countries and is still lacking in Ontario. The purpose of this new section 29 increases the vacation period to which an employee is entitled under the act. Currently the act provides only a two-week vacation period for each employee which does not vary with the amount of employment service. It would provide two weeks in each year upon completion of 12 months of employment, three weeks in each year upon the completion of 60 months of employment and four weeks in each year upon the completion of 120 months of employment.

3:40 p.m.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved, seconded by Mr. Breaugh, first reading of Bill 83, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to extend the application of the whole of the Employment Standards Act to crown employees. Currently only parts IX, X, XI and XII of the act apply to crown employees.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Speaker, in the closing minutes of last Friday's session I began to express my views on some of the major considerations contained in the speech of the Lieutenant Governor. I indicated at that time that there were two issues in particular to which I wished to address myself.

The first of these had to do with the energy program of the Ontario government, and I

quoted the following statement contained in the throne speech: "Ontario's electrical power system continues to be a cornerstone of the provincial economy and the envy of other jurisdictions. Its continued vitality and development to meet our needs is essential to sustaining economic growth."

I made a few general comments with regard to that statement and, at the conclusion of the time available to me last Friday, I indicated there were three specific areas upon which I wanted to elaborate as to how this government, in conjunction with Ontario Hydro, was protecting the interests of the people of Ontario by ensuring that we continue to have a reliable, cost-efficient and secure supply of electricity, which represents a large component of our energy needs in this province.

I suggest that Ontario Hydro and the government have come a long way since 1977, when the select committee on Ontario Hydro affairs was first set up. From 1977 to 1980, that committee investigated, long and diligently, the obligations and responsibilities of Ontario Hydro to provide necessary electrical energy to the people and the industries of this province.

I remind honourable members that back in the early days when those hearings were first established there was a certain public atmosphere that seemed to prevail. There were a certain number of doubts and mistrust towards the traditional agencies of the crown and the government itself with regard to the nuclear power program, which had been put in place back in 1964; at least, that is when the policy was established by this government to make nuclear energy a very significant component of our energy program in this province.

Up to the time that the select committee on Ontario Hydro affairs was put into being and discussions got under way, there had been a certain erosion of public confidence in the nuclear program based on statements that were being made by people in certain quarters. In retrospect, I think it was most appropriate that the committee should have been and was formed at that time.

As you can well recall, Mr. Speaker, no committee set up by any government in any province in this country, by the federal authorities or by anyone anywhere else on the continent, has done such a thorough, in-depth public assessment of the nuclear program as was done by our own select committee.

Part of the mistrust that appeared to exist in the public's mind was that there appeared to be

an undue amount of secrecy that prevailed with regard to the agencies and the government that were responsible for bringing the program on stream and keeping it operating. A lot of statements were being made at that time about just how safe, secure and reliable the system was.

The work of the select committee achieved what was necessary; that is, to remove the doubts and concerns that existed in the public's mind with regard to the viability of our nuclear program. It was established with those reports being made after hours and hours of hearings and after hearing both from many witnesses within the system—that is, from people within Ontario Hydro—and from many experts on the outside, not only within Ontario but also from other parts of this country and beyond, who testified before the committee.

From those hearings three major reports were brought forward. The one that came forward in June 1980 confirmed that Ontario's nuclear reactors were safe. That was the first and, I suggest, the most important consideration and determination that had to be made. Only after an exhaustive review of that situation was that determination arrived at.

Following that major report, there were two other reports which dealt with other aspects of the nuclear program.

One report was based on an exhaustive investigative study by the committee on the disposal of nuclear fuel wastes. At the conclusion of those hearings it was determined that great progress was being made in developing the necessary nuclear waste disposal sites.

There is clear evidence available to us, not only from those hearings but also from subsequent developments, that indicates we are a long way on the road to finding the ways and means of long-term disposal of nuclear waste.

It would appear there is every likelihood that this country and others will be resorting to the safe disposal of spent nuclear fuels by means of deep burial in the ground under the most secure and careful preparation and continuing surveillance.

The other report that followed shortly after that report was the one dealing with safety in the mining, milling and refining of the uranium. There too it was clear that there was satisfactory safety in this field but that there was some room for improvement to be made.

3:50 p.m.

Mr. Haggerty: Unsatisfactory. That's the word.

Mr. Williams: The committee came up with some very positive recommendations that suggested ways and means by which further improvement could be made in this field, as the member for Erie (Mr. Haggerty) will well recall, having been a member of the committee along with me at the time.

At the conclusion of all those hearings, the committee achieved what I think had to be achieved. It cemented the public's confidence in and support of our nuclear commitment.

The critics of the program had been confident that at those hearings they would be able to show that the system was not safe and that there was too much at risk to be proceeded with or expanded upon. When those myths were exploded, it appears that some of those groups were not prepared to accept the facts that were placed before the committee and resulted in the recommendations that were made.

A case in point is that, well after our hearings, when the Canadian Nuclear Association and the Canadian Nuclear Society were in conference last year, two of the major anti-nuclear groups, the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility—which I suggest is a misnomer, given that it appears to be an organization totally opposed to a nuclear program under any given circumstances—and Energy Probe, apparently picketed that particular conference. They carried around placards reading "Nuclear killing machines" and "One, two, three, four—we don't want a nuclear war," signs that completely misrepresented the industry as it related to what was suggested by this type of tactic.

By doing that, they are discrediting themselves as being responsible critics of the system, because there is a need to have a continuing, responsible group or organization that can make fair and critical comment. But when they resort to these types of tactics, it does not help their cause. There is a need to have ongoing assessment of the system by the public at large. That is healthy and good.

Having given a bit of that historical background, it appears that the green light having been given as a result of the positive findings in those reports, our system of energy development in this province has gone forward at an even faster pace.

It is interesting to note that at this time under Ontario Hydro the total generating capacity today in Ontario is 22,300 megawatts, which are provided equally by our hydroelectric system, by our fossil-fuel units and, of course, by nuclear power. These three components not only meet

the domestic needs of the people of Ontario but also help other provinces in times of energy need. Also, where surplus energy is available we have been able to export some of our surplus power to our neighbours to the south.

Given the fact that the government has a very specific policy that has been established since the oil crisis evolved back in the mid-1970s, the government's off-oil policy has moved this province, and Ontario Hydro in particular, to even greater reliance on energy that is available from indigenous sources. Of course, that means greater reliance on both our hydroelectric productive capacity and our nuclear capacity. We are becoming less and less dependent on the use of fossil fuels to meet our needs now and in the foreseeable future.

The government's off-oil policy dictates that the province reduce its use of oil in residential, commercial and industrial sectors to 10 per cent of the total energy currently used and its use of oil for transportation purposes by 10 per cent. To achieve these goals, we must depend more and more on those sources of electrical power that can be obtained from indigenous sources; that is, uranium fuel and an abundant supply of water.

The strength of our system has always been the fact that we could rely on our nuclear and hydroelectric facilities, the fact that we have security of supply. We know the uranium is here in the province; we know the water resources are here and will remain. It is a question, then, of relating the cost factor to those available resources.

Let me just touch on a few facts that I think will put the matter into clearer perspective.

First of all, I would like to speak about the matter of reliability. Here I am referring to our nuclear component which, although it accounts for approximately 35 per cent of Ontario Hydro's output at this time, is likely, given the circumstances I have outlined, to increase to as much as 60 per cent of our total supply in the next decade.

With regard to the reliability of the nuclear machinery that we had in place last year, our commercial reactors had a combined capacity of 90 per cent as compared to about 60 per cent in the light water units operating in the United States.

While it cost \$92 million to operate our nuclear program last year, at the same time Ontario Hydro saved \$710 million in coal costs. I think this graphically illustrates the point that, although the capital cost of putting a nuclear

power plant in place is substantial, the operating cost of a nuclear power plant is substantially less than that of a fossil fuel plant.

4 p.m.

There is also the all-important safety factor which was so much at the heart of the deliberations and discussions of the select committee referred to. I think it should therefore be stated at this time for the record that during 10 years of operation Pickering generating station A has helped to set an enviable safety record which it shares with other nuclear stations in Ontario. I want to highlight what those safety successes have been.

First, during 19 years of operations in Canada there has never been a fatality, nor has there been an injury of any kind to a member of the public. Second, there has never been a release of radioactivity from any nuclear generating station which resulted in a measurable dose to any member of the public. Third, the radioactivity risk criteria, based on Ontario Hydro standards and guidelines set by the Atomic Energy Control Board as the federal regulatory agency, have been fully met at every station for every year the program has been in existence.

Before moving to another aspect of our energy program, I think I should provide a few more interesting pieces of information relative to the nuclear program, information I think will be of particular interest to you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, given the location of your riding and the activity taking place in that vicinity with regard to the expansion of the Ontario Hydro nuclear program.

I refer in particular to the status of the Darlington nuclear generating station which has advanced its original timetable whereby the first two units will be advanced six months and the last two units by 12 months. Given this new timetable, the in-service date for the first unit, unit 2, is now scheduled for May 1988, unit 1 for February 1989, unit 3 for November 1989 and unit 4 for August 1990.

It is interesting to note the new Darlington schedule will reduce Hydro's coal requirements in the late 1980s and early 1990s by about two million tons. Allowing for the fact that Hydro pays \$50 a ton for coal, at least at this time, this advance of the schedule will achieve net savings of about \$60 million mainly in coal costs. An additional benefit is that by burning less coal there will be a corresponding drop in acidic emissions from the coal-fired stations.

On the human side of the equation, in the short term this \$6.6-billion project at Darlington

is mobilizing a construction force which is at present more than 600 workers, which before the end of this year should achieve around 1,000 workers and before the conclusion of the project will have maximized itself at a figure of around 2,600 workers.

The increase in the work force is reflected in two major contracts that were granted by Ontario Hydro at the end of last year. One was the granting of the contract for the structural steel for the station's powerhouse at a cost of about \$48 million, and the other for the station's cooling water intake tunnel at a cost of \$11.5 million.

Progress is also being made at the Pickering and Bruce facilities and both projects are on schedule. Pickering unit 5 goes critical in November next and will be in service in April 1983. In 1984, units 6 and 7 should be in service in April and September respectively and unit 8 is scheduled to go in service in February 1985. At Bruce, unit 6 is scheduled to be in service in April 1984, unit 5 in July 1984, unit 7 in April 1986 and unit 8 in January 1987. So we can see that by the end of 1987 there will be available significant additional power to meet the expansion of the need for energy in this province, not only in this decade but to the end of the century.

This brings me to my second point with regard to the electrical power program of Ontario Hydro and of this government, which is the project that is bound up in a contract which exists between the Ontario Hydro and General Public Utilities Lake Erie cable project. There has been a great deal in the news media about this in recent weeks revolving around the decision now awaited from the National Energy Board for approval or rejection of this project.

Essentially, it involves the building of a high-voltage, direct-current underwater cable connection between Nanticoke, Ontario and a place called Coho, which is near Erie, Pennsylvania, for the purpose of supplying power and energy to General Public Utilities, an American utility company. Considering the magnitude of the undertaking, the cost involved and the benefits that will be derived therefrom I think it approaches the category of megaproject.

Ontario Hydro entered into this program because it expects to have surplus generating capacity available from now into the future. The select committee found that the gross surplus energy available in Ontario was as much as 45 per cent. However, as it is clearly imperative that Ontario Hydro always maintain a 25 per cent reserve margin for emergency purposes,

there is in fact only a 20 per cent net surplus available, but this is sufficient to meet our contractual commitments with GPU without in any way prejudicing the domestic energy program.

4:10 p.m.

A lot of public interest and concern in this project resulted from an interest that was taken in this matter by elected officials at the federal level. At the conclusion of the National Energy Board hearings on this project in Ottawa, elected members of the federal government saw fit to object publicly to this undertaking, suggesting it would contribute to our environmental problems and that it would add to the acid rain problem, not only in this province but in the United States. Some of the information on the basis of which they were critical of Ontario Hydro appeared to be incomplete or was misinformation that caused Ontario Hydro to respond publicly to the suggestions that this project would significantly contribute to that environmental problem.

The chairman of Ontario Hydro set the record straight, as I think it had to be set straight, and it is important it be set straight for the record here, that should this project be given the green light by the National Energy Board, it will contribute to a lessening of the acid rain problem for the reason that it will put into operation a facility that is much cleaner and much more sensitive to the problem than would exist if we had to rely on the operation of comparable, fossil-fuel-operated facilities in the United States.

The chairman of Ontario Hydro has made it clear that close to half a billion dollars is being set aside to retrofit some of the major fossil-fuel-fired plants, the coal-fired plants, with scrubbers in such a fashion that the estimated emissions will be reduced by approximately 50 per cent halfway through this contract in 1990. It is a 10-year contract that would start up in 1985 if approval were given after installation of the underwater cables and would conclude in 1995.

The scrubbers would ensure that the facilities to be used, in particular the Nanticoke operation, would reduce the emissions over a period of time up to 1990 so that the estimated 600,000 tons of effluent from that facility would be reduced to fewer than 300,000 tons. This could not be achieved if we allowed that type of delivery of energy to be provided from the less efficient and more antiquated facilities south of the border.

The additional side benefit to be derived from

the sales of this surplus energy is that it will reduce the cost of domestic energy to the consumers of Ontario. Specifically, in 1979, through the export of energy to the United States, Ontario Hydro saved \$153 million. In 1980, a saving in excess of \$162 million was realized and in 1981 revenues were up again to \$192 million. In each of those three years there has been an approximate saving of seven per cent on the rate increases that would have had to be imposed. So through that same three-year period, while the rate increases were kept at 9.8 per cent in 1979, 8.6 per cent in 1980 and 9.3 per cent in 1981, an average figure of nine per cent, if that seven per cent had not been made available through those additional revenues, the people of Ontario would have been burdened with an approximate increase of 16 per cent in cost to them for delivery of the service—a very significant saving indeed.

The third point I would like to move on to with regard to energy, before I move to the remaining point I want to discuss today, is the real sleeping energy giant this province has come to recognize and which it is doing something about. I am referring to the sleeping energy giant of hydrogen. In his remarks in the Legislature last week my colleague the member for Lincoln (Mr. Andrewes) made comment on the progress being made in this area. I would like to elaborate a bit further on what is happening in that sphere for the record.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, back in 1980 the Minister of Energy (Mr. Welch) announced that a program was going to be set up to determine whether this province should be moving in a big way into research and development of the potential of hydrogen as an energy fuel. In the fall of 1981, after having made the decision to proceed on an exploratory basis, the Minister of Energy released a synopsis of a report from the hydrogen energy task force he had set up in 1980 under the capable chairmanship of Dr. Arthur Johnson of York University, along with 10 other colleagues, to determine the potential role of hydrogen in Ontario's energy future. It was determined at that time that we were moving in the right direction.

It has been made clear there are two ways in which to make hydrogen. One is to extract it from hydrocarbons such as natural gas, the other is through electrolysis, using electricity to separate water into its component parts, hydrogen and oxygen. As my colleague the member for Lincoln cited, the most effective way to use

hydrogen would be in transportation, which accounts for approximately half of Ontario's consumption of crude oil. With our hydroelectric and nuclear power facilities, we have the ability and the capacity to develop this new source of energy. It would appear that such facilities would likely be built in the vicinity of the Bruce nuclear reactor to make use of the great available energy storage there.

4:20 p.m.

The Minister of Energy indicated that this decade must be devoted to strong research and development. The first tangible evidence of this commitment was made with the awarding of a contract between the Ministry of Energy and the Urban Transportation Development Corp., which my friend touched on the other day, a \$6.2-million contract to develop a hydrogen storage and fuel system on transit vehicles. This \$6.2-million project is part of Ontario's \$75-million Board of Industrial Leadership and Development alternative transportation fuel program. The synopsis of the hydrogen energy task force report that was released last fall proposed that a hydrogen institute be created for research, development and demonstration programming.

The research and development would address itself to four things in particular: first, vehicular power systems, for example, internal combustion engines, gas turbine engines, fuel-cell power sourcing. Second, storage and transfer; for example, metal hybrid technology, cryogenics and metal embrittlement studies would be undertaken. Third, there would be development in the area of electrochemistry dealing with electrolyzers and batteries. Fourth, and of equal importance, would be its relationship to environmental matters such as safety and the setting of necessary environmental standards.

The minister announced not more than a month after that particular report was tabled that his ministry had contracted with the University of Toronto for planning and development that will lead to the establishment of an institute for hydrogen and the development of a system and its usage.

It is clear that a great deal of progress has been made in this area. Undoubtedly, with the institute that the minister referred to, the institute for hydrogen and electrochemical systems, after this six-month study project is completed, we will be that much closer to reality that the decade of research and development will be able to proceed accordingly from upon which we would hope to see before the end of the century very significant developments and

achievements in the field of hydrogen and its use on economic terms.

Those were the three areas I wanted to touch on briefly. Just for the record, I wanted to indicate the progress this government has made in living up to its commitment to meet the energy needs of the people of Ontario.

What I would like to do now in the few minutes remaining to me is to come to the second matter I felt was of considerable priority. It is a matter of local concern, yet it relates to a program that is universal in nature and is one that deals with assessment of real property.

The matter that I think has to be addressed is the situation that exists within Metropolitan Toronto. Before I touch on how it is of particular significance and importance in this area and in order that I can clarify some situations that have developed in recent weeks, I want to point out that as recently as March 18 there has been a certain amount of political chicanery going on in these chambers. I want to outline some basic information so members can understand what I am leading to.

First of all, as we well know, in 1969 the decision was made by this government to move responsibility for assessment of real property away from the local municipalities, to be taken over and run by the government of Ontario so that for once an even-handed method of application of real property assessment could be applied. Prior to that time, when each individual municipality was responsible for assessment, there were no fewer than 168 methods of application of the assessment process. This caused an imbalance and a lack of equity in the system on a province-wide basis.

At the present time, since the system was taken over and set up by the province, we have 31 full assessment offices in operation around the province along with nine suboffices. These offices and the operations of the ministry at large have achieved what could not have been achieved otherwise; that is, to provide equity and fair play in the field of assessment by providing a uniform system of assessment.

In 1978, section 86 of the act was brought in, providing a mechanism by which municipalities could on their initiative ask to move into the area of market value assessment. At the present time, 349 of Ontario's 837 municipalities have requested and successfully implemented market value assessment under the section 86 program. It appears that another 100 to 200 municipalities will be requesting that this process be applied to them this year, resulting in

over half of the municipalities throughout the province moving to market value assessment on their initiative and with the support and backup of the resources of the provincial assessment department through the Ministry of Revenue.

One of the major areas left with regard to moving towards market value assessment is Metropolitan Toronto. However—and this is important—I want to make it quite clear that in June 1981 Metro council asked the provincial assessors, the assessment department, to undertake a section 86 study. This was reaffirmed as recently as last month by the Metropolitan Toronto council.

They requested a tax impact study be undertaken that would measure the consequences of a possible reassessment of all properties in all six area municipalities within the 240 square miles of Metropolitan Toronto. The proposal is that there would be a 1980 market valuation on the 487,000 residential properties in Metro Toronto, less than one quarter or 108,000 of which are in the city of Toronto proper. This will allow Metro's elected people to be informed on the evaluation and the practicality or otherwise of introducing new assessment and apportionment systems.

Of equal importance, it should be noted that on March 31, 1981, the city of Toronto tax reform committee also formally requested that more recent market value assessment data—that is, the 1980 market value based assessments—be provided to them by our assessment people.

4:30 p.m.

The the boroughs of Scarborough and East York have also made formal requests under section 86, requesting tax impact studies based on the 1980 market value.

I think it is important to note what the main features of the section 86 process are. It makes available to municipalities on a voluntary basis the right to have a reassessment study done. The process corrects inequities among ratepayers within property classes and it prevents tax shifts from one property class to another by ensuring that each property class will bear approximately the same proportion of the total municipal tax burden after section 86 reassessment as it did before.

Fourth, it revises all property assessments on the basis of their market value and, fifth, it makes property assessments on the tax base more defensible.

Those are the main features. I might add it also ensures that neither the amount of the

provincial grants payable to the municipalities nor the apportionment of shared costs within a region is affected by the implementation of section 86. With these main features any council can ask the Minister of Revenue to study classes of property to determine the degree of the inequities in the assessment base within each class. I come back to the point that the Metropolitan Toronto council has asked the minister to do a tax impact study.

There is another procedure under the Assessment Act that is quite separate from section 86. It is the process available under section 63 which has to do with the renovation of existing properties. I would remind members that the Minister of Revenue is clearly mandated under section 63 of the Assessment Act to do certain things. Specifically, this section provides that "where the erection, alteration, enlargement or improvement of any building . . . increases the value of any real property in a municipality or locality by at least \$2,500 . . . such increase in value shall be assessed and included in the assessment roll to be returned in the municipality or locality next after such increase comes to the attention of, and the amount thereof has been determined by, the assessment commissioner."

Last year 135,500 properties province-wide were reassessed; about five per cent of those properties, or 6,826 of them, were in the city of Toronto. It has been brought to the attention of the minister and the ministry that of the 6,826 reassessments which were done last year, within the appeal time available only 1,834 people had actually appealed on their reassessments in the city of Toronto, leaving 4,992 properties on which no appeals were launched.

It has been suggested in some quarters that adequate time was not made available or that there would have been many more appeals if there had been a lengthier appeal period made available.

Under those circumstances the minister decided he would give the benefit of the doubt to those who suggested they had not had adequate notice of the reassessments or adequate time to appeal by introducing into the Legislature last week Bill 60, An Act to provide for the Institution of Complaints for Certain Assessments made in the Year 1981 in the City of Toronto. I believe this bill will be debated next week in this Legislature. Certainly the legislation will remedy the problem that has been perceived to exist within Metropolitan Toronto.

I suggested earlier that there had been some political chicanery that had been carried on in

this Legislature last month. I would like to come to the point as to why I think this has transpired, given the general overview I have portrayed this afternoon.

It was on that date that the member for Parkdale (Mr. Ruprecht) engaged in a diatribe in this Legislature that suggested either he was confused and did not understand the process and the distinction between section 86 and market value and section 63 dealing with renovated properties; or else he was intentionally, I suggest, confusing the issue so people would not clearly understand the distinction and the issues before us.

What I would like to do is refer specifically to that particular debate and point out very graphically and clearly to illustrate the distortion and dramatization that took place at that time. The member proceeded to suggest that the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Ashe) and an army of 110 property tax assessors were organizing an unprecedented campaign against Toronto home owners.

The suggestion that 110 assessors were being seconded and brought into Metro Toronto to deal with property reassessments is not factually correct. The assessors in question were brought in to deal specifically with the market value assessment impact tax study that has been requested by the Metropolitan Toronto council and have nothing whatsoever to do with the renovation of the properties in the city of Toronto and the 6,826 city of Toronto homes that were involved.

He suggested that to bring in assessors from other parts of the province was unprecedented. Let me point out clearly for the record that in 1978-79, 80 assessors were brought in to the Cambridge and Kitchener area to assist the local assessors to do a market value impact study. In the same year, 30 assessors were seconded to the Timmins area to do the same thing.

That is, a total of 110 assessors were seconded from other assessment offices around the province to those two areas in 1978-79 to do an impact study no different from the one being done here in Metropolitan Toronto today. In 1980, 100 assessors were seconded to go into a much less populated area of the province, the district of Muskoka, again to assist the local assessors to do a section 86 tax impact study. So we have lots of precedent, and for the member to suggest it was an unprecedented campaign

does not hold water when one considers the facts.

4:40 p.m.

It has been suggested that these assessors who were brought in were here to do the assessments on renovations under section 63. The fact is that the assessors have been brought in since Metro council reaffirmed its request in March for the tax impact study to be done under section 86. Up until this morning, those assessors who have been in Metro Toronto from other areas have been concentrating on doing the impact tax study on commercial, industrial and high-density residential properties. Only this week will they begin to do single-family home residential properties as part of the Metropolitan Toronto request for the impact study. Clearly that has nothing whatsoever to do with the reassessments that were done last year by the local assessment staff on those properties in the city of Toronto proper.

It is interesting to note that the member suggested these assessors were here in Toronto to conduct a campaign to terrorize the citizens of this city and to throw many of those residents who have received extra increases on to the street. Again, I point out that this clearly is a misrepresentation of fact, because those assessors who came in from the outside area had nothing whatsoever to do with the assessment that was carried on by the local assessors in 1981.

The member chose to try to cite chapter and verse to suggest how some of the citizens of Toronto are supposedly being terrorized by so-called discriminatory tax hikes. At that time he said: "Here are the facts. There are an estimated 9,000 Toronto home owners who have been reassessed based on renovations in excess of \$2,500." Of course, we know there were 6,800-odd reassessments done last year, not the 9,000 he said was factually correct.

He said properties with renovation improvements in excess of \$2,500 were given assessment increases ranging up to 591 per cent, but he neglected to indicate 591 per cent of what. The case he was referring to was one that was publicized in the local newspaper on December 13 when the property in question had its assessment changed from \$1,020 to \$6,030, and that was a property that was sold in February 1981 for \$91,000.

It is interesting to note what the taxes were on that property. I would be almost ashamed to admit it if I were the one appealing the assess-

ment, given the fact that the tax bill in 1981 on that property, valued at \$91,000, was \$181.77.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Order. I know this is very controversial, but the member has the floor.

Mr. Williams: The way in which this matter was addressed by the member was surely not to be taken seriously. It was almost laughable, except that he was not purporting to speak on his own behalf with his own distorted view of the facts but rather was stating that this was the formal policy of the Ontario Liberal Party. The policy he was enunciating was a one-two punch. Listen to this: "The Ontario Liberal Party has called on the Ontario government to declare a one-year ban on discriminatory reassessments in Toronto and to revoke all such reassessments made in 1981."

Let us just look at the implications here. First, if we grant a tax holiday, as the Ontario Liberal Party is suggesting, only to the 6,826 properties that were reassessed in 1981 it would mean a loss of some \$14 million in assessments, representing \$3 million in lost taxes; or if we roll them all back, as can be implied clearly from the statement made by the member for Parkdale, it would mean a loss of \$79 million in assessments, representing a loss in taxes of some \$16 million.

It is regrettable that this would adversely and prejudicially affect the other 102,000 residential property owners in Toronto by causing them to pick up the slack that would be created by implementing this type of policy and granting a further tax holiday. Not only would it have an effect there, but it would also have an effect on the people in the other boroughs, because 75 per cent of that lost revenue is found to lie in the local and Metropolitan Separate School Board portion of the Metropolitan Toronto tax levy. So it is clear that implementing this type of Ontario Liberal Party policy would clearly prejudice the people in my riding, the people in the city of North York and the people living in the other boroughs within the Metropolitan Toronto area.

That is clearly unacceptable, and if the member for Parkdale suggests irresponsibly that there is a campaign of terror going on in the city which justifies rolling back reassessments and granting a tax holiday, I can only say to him that I do not want the Ontario Liberal Party to victimize the people in the other areas of Metropolitan Toronto by having them pick up the slack while they are giving a tax holiday

under the policy enunciated by the member as being the policy of the Ontario Liberal Party.

The other point is this. The second plank in the Ontario Liberal Party platform is they are asking that the renovation figure be raised, the exemption under section 63 be raised from \$2,500 to \$7,500 to keep alive the incentive to make home repairs.

4:50 p.m.

I am wondering out loud whether the member has ever consulted the municipal authorities of the city of Toronto because it is not provincial revenue he is eliminating, it is municipal revenue. It is interesting that he gratuitously suggests the exemption figure be upped. The city of Toronto and the Metro area would lose millions of dollars in revenue. Their only source of revenue at the municipal level is realty property tax. To suggest gratuitously, "Let us up it; it looks good," without even getting the blessing or consent of the local municipalities is intolerable.

Mr. Elston: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: I have had an opportunity to speak in reply to the throne speech and we have all been trying to maintain a reasonable length. Since this is the last day and several more members wish to speak, I think something should be done to allow as many more people to speak today as is possible since we are winding up tomorrow. I think it is an abuse of the privilege of members to find they are going to have the clock run out here.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: On the same point of order, Mr. Speaker—

The Deputy Speaker: That was a point of privilege. Do you have a point of order?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: A point of privilege, then.

The Deputy Speaker: Are your personal privileges being abused?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to inform the Deputy Speaker this has been tough to listen to but my caucus found the answer—it did not allow me to speak in the throne speech debate.

The Deputy Speaker: I appreciate all the members' concerns. As all members can appreciate, under the standing orders in regard to this particular debate there are no time limitations. However, we will call upon the member for Oriole to take the request under serious consideration.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Speaker, I respect and honour the comment made by the member for

Huron-Bruce (Mr. Elston). I recognize we are trying to stay within time limitations. I had committed myself to an hour and I concede I am running 10 minutes over. I started at 20 minutes to the hour and it is now 10 minutes to the hour, so I have run 10 minutes over. I will be through within five minutes. I will try to honour that commitment. In fact, it will be less than five minutes. I was coming to a conclusion—

[Applause]

An hon. member: Put it on the record.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Some honourable members applaud.

Mr. Kerrio: Most honourable members applauded.

Mr. Ruston: On all sides.

Mr. Williams: I did feel it was absolutely necessary to put this issue of assessment and reassessment in Metropolitan Toronto in perspective, because it not only affects people in the city of Toronto, it clearly encompasses and affects people in all of Metropolitan Toronto.

For the Ontario Liberal Party to try to impose in a high-handed fashion these types of proposals on the people of Metropolitan Toronto as its policy to give a preferential tax holiday to one segment of the community is outrageous and it will cause a palace revolution if it tries to put that policy into effect. Certainly the people in my area and the people in the other boroughs are not going to stand idly by and see that they, who are equally hard pressed in meeting the ever-increasing realty tax demands made by our respective municipalities, are going to find themselves with an extra burden so that other, selected people can have a tax holiday. It is totally unacceptable.

It is on that basis that I say any suggestion, through distortion or dramatization, that people are supposedly being terrorized in the city of Toronto is not acceptable. It had to be addressed. I conclude by saying it will not be done at the expense of the Ontario Liberal Party victimizing the rest of the taxpayers in the Metropolitan Toronto area.

These have been the two main issues I wanted to touch on today in the time limited to me, to set some records straight and to make it clear that Ontario continues to provide leadership in the field of energy and will continue to provide equity and fairness in property taxation, notwithstanding the efforts of the Ontario Liberal Party to disrupt the system and undermine that philosophy and principle of equity and fairness in property taxation. Given these facts and the

current status in these two areas, it is quite clear that the government of Ontario is keeping the promise to the people of Ontario.

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, first, I thank the members across the way for their applause. I have come to the conclusion that the word of the member for Oriole and the promises of the Tory government are synonymous and inseparable. The reason I say that is that before the member for Oriole spoke I asked him how long he would be and he said half an hour, and even made the motion half way around the clock. He has been close to an hour and a half.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I made it quite clear to the member at the outset during his interruption in the House earlier today when he said, "How long are you going to be?" I said an hour, and after that I said it might be a half hour but anywhere from half an hour to an hour. So the member should not say I committed myself to half an hour.

Mr. Riddell: I beg to differ with him. He not only indicated half an hour but he applied half a circle. I have also come to understand the Tories are always travelling in circles and they do not know when they have gone 180 degrees or when they have gone 360 degrees.

One kind thing I do want to say in my speech is to congratulate you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, on your appointment to your high office. I trust you will convey my congratulations and best wishes to the member for Peterborough (Mr. Turner) and the member for York Centre (Mr. Cousens).

Since the Premier (Mr. Davis) formed a majority government a little over a year ago, based on promises which have never been kept, nor did the Premier ever intend to keep those promises, since he formed his majority government based on those hollow promises, I have become very concerned about the Tory attitude and what it is doing to the democratic process. Based on the government's—

Mr. Treleaven: He has to read that.

Mr. Riddell: I have never heard the member for Oxford make much of a contribution to this House. I am still waiting. When I do sit to listen, I will listen, sir. I will not interject.

Based on the government's mode of operation since the days of minority government, my present view of the politics of democracy was well expressed by Winston Churchill when he implied that democracy is not perfect but it is the best that has ever been devised. Once again, Churchill recognized there were a lot of fallacies in the democratic system but at that time

and even now there is not a better system, but it is fast breaking down with the attitude of this Tory government.

I want to talk about the qualities which characterize the present government of Ontario. To do so, I shall cite a few specific examples. No doubt other members of the opposition could record similar episodes.

5 p.m.

For some time now my colleague the member for Huron-Bruce (Mr. Elston) and I have been working hard, together with the Town and Country Homemakers, in an effort to have Huron county included in the pilot program announced by the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Drea). In his announcement of the program, the minister stated that six areas in Ontario would be selected for the new homemaking services which are to be administered by the Ministry of Health.

During the debates on supplementary estimates both the member for Huron-Bruce and I spoke on this matter. Shortly after the completion of the debates the member for Huron-Bruce walked across the floor and spoke to the Minister of Health (Mr. Grossman) in an attempt to arrange a meeting with him on behalf of the Town and Country Homemakers.

One would expect that the minister's response to this request for a meeting with a community group would be treated with the consideration and courtesy it deserved and that the minister would say, at the least, that he would consult his appointment book and find a convenient time.

The response, however, was a shock even to my colleague, who has become accustomed to the arrogance of this government. He was told point blank by the Minister of Health that as far as he, the minister, was concerned, the member for Middlesex (Mr. Eaton) represented Huron county and any meetings such as the one requested would be arranged under the auspices of that member. I doubt if members have encountered arrogance to equal this.

Perhaps the minister would be kind enough to name for the members of the Legislature, other members of the government party who have been designated as representatives for specific areas of Ontario—for southwestern Ontario, eastern Ontario, northern Ontario; for Toronto, Hamilton, London and other urban centres. Is there a list of such representatives and can one get a copy of it?

In a somewhat related case, the nursing home dispute in Ridgetown, the Minister of Health tried to involve the member for Chatham-Kent

(Mr. Watson). But in the event, I must tell you, Mr. Speaker, the member failed to justify the trust put in him by the people of Chatham-Kent. I wonder what that man is going to do for the people of Kent-Elgin.

Last week my colleague the member for Hamilton Centre (Ms. Copps) rose in this House on a point of privilege to ask the Speaker to make a ruling as to whether members' privileges are breached when they are told by regional ministry offices that no information can be given out until the matter in question has been brought to the attention of the minister.

Elected members of this House will find it hard to believe that they cannot now receive information from ministry regional offices unless that information first crosses the desk of the minister. They will see that as another indication of the arrogance of this government.

Not so long ago, former Liberal leader Stuart Smith raised in a point of privilege the fact that Wintario grants were announced by Tory members in their own ridings, while any such grants approved for ridings held by opposition members were announced by the minister. The Liberal member for Quinte (Mr. O'Neil) raised the same point of privilege in connection with housing grants.

Another example of this government's arrogance which disturbs me greatly is the absence of Tory members when the leaders of the opposition parties participate in the throne or budget debate. Surely the Premier and the cabinet ministers have a responsibility to remain in the House and listen to the contributions made by the leaders of the two opposition parties, but when they get up to speak members on the opposite side simply leave and just two or three seats are occupied. I say that is highly irresponsible.

Look at what the government is doing to the private members' hour. Practically every bill or resolution that is introduced or debated in this House during private members' hour is blocked by the government. We all know it is a free vote; members can get up and vote on a private member's bill in whatever fashion they want. So why are they denigrating the private members' hour to the extent they are? It is just one more indication to me of the irresponsibility and arrogance of this government.

We ask questions on this side of the House during the question period and the ministers stand in their places and give evasive and irresponsible answers to our questions.

Mr. Havrot: Oh, shame! That's not true.

Mr. Riddell: It is. That is as true as I say it. Their answers in many cases amount to nothing more than political rhetoric, and the Minister of Health is one of those chiefly responsible for those kind of answers.

The list goes on and on. There are stories of months of delay in receiving a response to letters to a minister, of letters supposedly lost in a minister's office. On one occasion, when I called the then Minister of Labour's office for an appointment, I was told, and I quote, "Make the request for an audience with the minister in writing."

Mr. R. F. Johnston: How many people did you have to bring with you?

Mr. Riddell: Can members imagine the arrogance that exists on the Tory side of the House? What kind of government are the Conservatives running here? What kind of services are they giving to the people of Ontario when elected representatives are treated in this cavalier and cynical fashion?

I want to make it abundantly clear that we will not be intimidated by such assaults on the democratic system, imperfect as it may be. We will not allow the Conservatives to further distort and force the democratic process. They cannot fool all of the people all of the time and I firmly believe the electorate will soon come to realize the Tories are making a mockery, an empty sham, of democratic government in Ontario.

The Tory arrogance is almost beyond belief, except that almost daily we are subjected to more and more evidence of the fact that arrogance and the Ontario Tories are synonymous and inseparable. In fact, arrogance and autocratic rule are among the hallmarks of this government, hallmarks that are indelibly imprinted on its every policy and action.

You will no doubt recall, Mr. Speaker, that Lippman maintained: "The denial that man may be arbitrary in human transactions is the higher law. If the Sovereign himself may not act arbitrarily, ministers may not. The Legislature may not. Majorities may not." The sad truth is that the Ontario Progressive Conservatives have never learned this cardinal rule or they have conveniently long since forgotten it.

5:10 p.m.

May I remind the members of this House of the January 28 announcement of provincial transfers to municipalities. On that day, without consultation, without regard for municipal budgeting timetables, without even the courtesy of

informing the municipalities before the press were advised, the government announced its 1982 grants. The decision, like so many others by this government, was arbitrarily made and arbitrarily imposed.

What avenue of appeal is available to municipalities? Absolutely none. The minister's word is the last word. He has already made it clear that there is little money for supplementary budgets.

Yet another hallmark of the Conservative government is its lack of courage—not gall, for the Premier and his colleagues have gall aplenty, but courage. Possibly this lack of courage is due, at least in part, to the inherent Conservative instinct to delay, to procrastinate and to defer. Instead of anticipating problems and dealing with them, the Premier and his ministers wait until systems break down, industries fold up and public services are jeopardized.

Typical Conservative procrastination is at least partly to blame for the ailing condition of Ontario's auto industry. In the last year, 9,000 workers have been laid off permanently, their jobs lost beyond recall. A further 18,000 have been laid off temporarily or indefinitely, a decline of 38 per cent in the work force. According to the United Auto Workers, 22 per cent of all workers in the auto industry are jobless at present.

In January 1982, the then Minister of Industry and Tourism, now the Minister of Health, belatedly decided it was time for everyone to pull together, as he told a special meeting of the Canadian automotive industry. Where have the minister and his predecessors been all these years? Why wait until the declining process is virtually at the point of no return?

The auto industry is the linchpin of Ontario's manufacturing sector. One in every five jobs in Ontario is dependent on the auto sector. Its decline parallels the decline of housing, appliances, aviation, furniture and other major industries hard hit by today's recession.

A total of 398,000 workers are idle in Ontario, 20.5 per cent more than a year ago. Of all Canadian provinces, Ontario has an economic slump second to none and the government is obviously totally at a loss. Years of mismanagement and extravagance have left Ontario little financial room to manoeuvre.

How can we afford new initiatives with a deficit approaching \$1.4 billion this year? The Premier himself has contributed substantially to the creation of Ontario's financial predicament by taking on commitments such as the \$650-million

investment in 25 per cent of Suncor, a move that effectively pre-empted borrowing capacity for more productive purposes. Clearly, the Conservatives have a deep-seated inability to anticipate and to plan. Moreover, they have a fundamental fear of action, a fear that paralyses.

The last hallmark of this government which I wish to cite is ineptitude. A good example of this is the government's Urban Transportation Development Corp., which last year launched into building its unproven intermediate capacity rapid transit vehicle. Rather than tender the contract competitively, permitting Ontario's well-developed and experienced train-building industry to bid, the UTDC invited two companies with no experience whatsoever in building trains to set up a new plant in Kingston. This is at a time when Hawker Siddeley of Thunder Bay has laid off more than 800 workers for lack of contracts. That is a typical example of this government's ineptitude. Our transportation industry certainly does not need that kind of stimulation.

We are just emerging from a cold, hard winter. The snow is fast disappearing and we are all looking forward to the sunny days of spring. Unfortunately, the cold shadow of the Davis regime will continue to chill the lives of Ontarians.

The words of T. S. Eliot are remarkably apt in describing this Tory government, which constantly and consistently shows itself to be lacking in humanity, lacking in wisdom and lacking in almost all the qualities that should be fundamental to a democratic government. What we have here in Ontario is a government of "hollow men," of "stuffed men leaning together, head-piece filled with straw."

The time has come for the Premier and his colleagues to be called to account. Almost every one of their actions condemns them as being arbitrary, lacking in courage and inept. Daily we see further evidence that this tired Tory regime has lost its ability to cope with the problems that urgently need solution.

The throne speech, which we are in the process of debating, shows pitifully little evidence of the fundamental principles that should guide a democratic government: accountability, courage, sensitivity, efficiency and social justice.

Time does not permit me to elaborate further on the failure of this government to lead the province at a time when leadership was never more important. But I do want to take a little time to talk about a crown corporation we all know about that at times we all love to hate. It is

a Goliath of a corporation, apparently out of control, and commonly referred to as Ontario Hydro.

It may be fitting that I should be talking about Ontario Hydro at this time, following the member for Oriole (Mr. Williams), who got up and sang the praises of Ontario Hydro and the great things it was doing.

It is time the truth was told about Ontario Hydro. I intend to bring before this Legislature some facts that are well documented. I challenge the Minister of Energy (Mr. Welch) and the chairman of Ontario Hydro to refute anything I am going to say about Ontario Hydro. I challenge them to do it, because the facts I am presenting are well documented and it is time this kind of information got out to the people of Ontario.

When I watched the Loeb Report the other day and saw the Minister of Energy floundering around trying to justify the purchase of 25 per cent of Suncor, it reminded me of a man drowning in his own verbal diarrhoea. That is pretty strong, but I must say it was just pitiful.

It was pitiful to see the Minister of Energy trying to answer the questions put to him by the reporter. As a result of that interview, the reporter said at the end: "We did not get the questions answered. All it did was raise more questions." That is the kind of job the Minister of Energy did in trying to justify the purchase of Suncor.

However, let me get back to Ontario Hydro. When the whip feels my time has expired, he can let me know and I will stop and complete my dissertation on Hydro when we have a chance to speak in the budget debate.

First, I will cite some reasons why Ontario Hydro has been accused of mismanaging public funds. Second, my topic will be acid rain and nuclear waste. Finally, I will speak of the whole issue of the proposed 500-kilovolt power corridor from Bruce to London that has been discussed so much recently. I heard the member for Oriole talking about the exportation of hydro to the United States, General Public Utilities, and all the rest of it. By the time I am finished, I am sure the member for Oriole will change his tune.

5:20 p.m.

On the question of Ontario Hydro mismanagement, members will be aware that the corporation's forecasts have for years assumed an increase in the demand for electricity of seven per cent per year, similar to the general trends in the 1950s and 1960s; on the basis of a seven per

cent growth rate, generation capacity had to double every 10 years.

Hydro did a good job of forecasting and constructing new plants until about 1973. At that time it assumed the demand for electricity would continue to grow at seven per cent per year, failing to register signals from consumers, who began conserving electrical energy and reducing overall growth in demand. While Hydro planned for seven per cent growth, actual demand increased from 1973 to 1981 at only between two and three per cent.

Let us look at Hydro's wasteful overexpansion plans. In December 1981 Ontario consumers' peak demand for electricity was 16,600 megawatts. Hydro likes to have a reserve margin of 25 per cent, which means it should have capacity to generate about 20,750 megawatts. Instead, it has the capacity to generate about 24,743 megawatts, some 49.05 per cent more than actual peak demand. The excess capacity above and beyond the 25 per cent reserve margin is some 3,993 megawatts. This excess approximates a capacity greater than that of all four units at Bruce A plus one of the four units at Pickering A.

We have calculated the cost of Hydro's overexpansion at about \$3.3 billion. This is for power we do not need now. By 1985, excess capacity will cost us \$10.8 billion for power we will not need then. The annual cost to Ontario Hydro's customers for this overexpansion is \$523 million, or 15.3 cents per day to the typical residential consumer. Small wonder that Hydro rates have increased some 250 per cent since 1971.

Hydro overexpansion continues. Our present generating system has enough capability, even with the 25 per cent reserve margin, to satisfy our projected electricity demands through 1987; yet Hydro continues to build, and not only to build but to build big. Between now and August 1990 the following plants will be operational: 298 megawatts of coal-fired power at Thunder Bay; 206 megawatts of coal-fired power at Atikokan; 2,064 megawatts of nuclear power at Pickering B; 3,024 megawatts of nuclear power at Bruce B; and 3,524 megawatts of nuclear power at Darlington. That is a total of 9,116 megawatts of electrical generating capacity.

In a recent document, Ontario Hydro stated that it will be possible to generate 51 per cent more electricity than is expected at the peak demand in 1990. A 31 per cent excess capacity is indicated for the year 2000. I believe it is outrageous for a crown corporation to spend

the taxpayers' money in such a fashion. Not only is it outrageous; it has to be fought against.

Let me tell you of some other examples of Hydro's mismanagement, and believe me, Mr. Speaker, there are many more.

Members may be aware of a uranium contract signed in 1978 between Hydro and Denison Mines Ltd. and Preston Mines Ltd. covering a period of 40 years and the delivery of 198 million pounds of uranium, with a guaranteed profit to the companies of \$2.2 billion. Both the Liberal Party and the NDP strongly opposed the contract, which they considered not to be in the public interest. However, the Premier authorized the signing of the contract on February 28, 1978.

Mr. MacDonald: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: To keep the record straight, the Liberals did not oppose the contract. They supported it because they said it was too long ago and too much time had passed. They started out opposing and ended up supporting the contract.

Mr. Riddell: That is a point of view.

Mr. MacDonald: That is a point of fact.

Mr. Riddell: The truth is that with respect to those contracts—

Mr. McClellan: Just stick to the facts.

Mr. Riddell: If we had to rely on the facts that come from that side of the House, we would be in serious trouble. The truth is that with respect to those contracts, Ontario consumers of electricity are being taken to the cleaners. I told the House this was well documented. Until the paid barnyard farmer from York South can provide us with the actual facts about that matter, I will stay with the documented facts I am presenting here today.

Mr. MacDonald: Who did this for you, you or your researcher? You are not a farmer, you are an auctioneer.

Mr. Riddell: The world price of uranium is currently about US\$23.50 per pound. However, the uranium being delivered under the Denison Mines contract is estimated to be costing Ontario Hydro about \$55 a pound. In addition, under the contracts Ontario Hydro is required to provide interest-free loans to the companies for expansion of their operations. Those loans will amount to \$650 million by 1985 in spite of the fact the original estimate by Ontario Hydro was \$340 million.

In periods of high interest rates, this government will apparently help out its friends in the

uranium business rather than the farmers, the home owners and small businessmen who are being forced into bankruptcy. Under the terms of the agreements, the earliest date by which Hydro could terminate the contracts would be 1989 for Preston Mines and 1993 for Denison Mines.

If Hydro did decide to terminate, it would lose its \$650-million, interest-free expansion loan. In addition, over the long term, owing to Hydro's improper forecasting of electricity demands, the contracts will deliver 55 million pounds of uranium in excess of the needs of Ontario Hydro's committed nuclear stations. The extra expenditure is approximately \$1.5 billion.

There is a final ironic twist to the story. In June 1981, both Rio Algom and Denison Mines were charged by the federal Attorney General with uranium price-fixing and the matter has yet to come before the courts.

Hydro has taken other outrageous actions at the expense of Ontario taxpayers. After spending \$260 million on the new oil-fired station at Wesleyville during a period when oil prices were skyrocketing, Hydro cancelled the project at a cost of \$180.5 million, mothballing it at a cost of a further \$20 million. Hydro hopes to recover \$60 million of this money if it can find buyers for some of the equipment.

A total of \$396 million was spent on construction of the Bruce heavy water plant D; then construction of half of that unit was stopped and the materials were stored. The other half of that unit was completed but was mothballed at a further cost of \$15 million. I hope the members are adding these up in their own minds so they will understand how many millions and millions of dollars Ontario Hydro has wasted.

After contracts were awarded for the construction of Bruce heavy water plant C, this was cancelled at a cost of \$69 million because it was not required. A total of \$489 million was spent on the Lennox generating station near Kingston, then Ontario Hydro mothballed two units at a cost of \$230,000. The other two units are only operational about four per cent of the time and these will be mothballed in 1983. Also, \$166 million was spent on the Hearn generating plant in Toronto. Five of its eight units have been mothballed at a cost of \$31,000 and the other three units are running at close to zero capacity.

5:30 p.m.

In 1976, Hydro signed a \$900-million, 15-year contract with Petrosar Ltd. of Sarnia for the delivery of fuel oil. So far, \$33 million has been

paid in order not to take delivery of the oil because the plants which were to use the oil had been mothballed. Another \$27 million has been set aside in order not to take delivery in 1982.

Ontario Hydro did not require its suppliers to provide a performance bond for the installation of the steam generators at the Pickering D generating station near Kincardine. Therefore, Hydro will be forced to pay at least \$10 million for defective boilers. Hydro's mistakes will add at least \$2.2 billion to our electrical bills in the province over the next 10 years.

There are other problems arising from Hydro's mistakes in its overexpansion program. The Legislature's select committee on Ontario Hydro affairs, which the member for York South will be well acquainted with—and I hope he will have his facts put together a little better on this matter—and which was disbanded by the Premier after the last election, announced that electricity from the Darlington nuclear generating station would not be required until between 1996 and 2004. Yet during the 1981 election the Premier called for the speedup of construction so that the four units of the plant would be in service between May 1988 and August 1990—anything to win an election.

As I mentioned earlier, Hydro's forecasting of increases in electrical energy demand has been off base. In February 1979 Hydro estimated that electrical demand would increase at a rate of 4.7 per cent from 1979 to 1989. Its testimony before the select committee showed that Hydro had chosen this figure in an arbitrary manner. In fact, Hydro's sophisticated forecasting models predicted a rate of 2.6, but this rate was rejected.

In January 1981 Hydro had reduced its forecast to a new rate of 3.1 per cent and in January 1982 the rate was down to three per cent. During this whole period of time the select committee had forecast that the growth in electricity demand in Ontario would only be two to three per cent per year. It appears now, after years of mistakes, Hydro is finally realizing the reality of the select committee's demand rate rather than living in a world of illusions.

We must ensure that these mistakes are never repeated. To this end, the strange and unacceptable relationship that the government has allowed to develop between Hydro, the government and the Legislature must be changed. While Hydro has been empire building, no one has been minding the store. Hydro is out of control. Not only has the government been blind to the dangers of the situation, it has

actually promoted the empire building. What is good for Hydro is not necessarily good for Ontario. The economic waste of having a state within a state is unacceptable and cannot be allowed to continue.

I would like now to speak of Ontario Hydro, the corporate polluter. With respect to acid-rain-causing emissions, Inco is the worst offender in Ontario and Hydro is the second. From the standpoint of pollution Inco is the worst offender, Hydro is the second. Acid rain is currently occurring in the greater part of eastern North America. Over half of our continent there are large areas in which surface soil and bedrock have little buffering capacity for acid inputs. They are potentially sensitive to the effects of acid rain. The vulnerable areas include unique, unspoiled and biologically productive environments.

Without being too technical, let me explain acid rain formation. When a fossil fuel such as coal is burned, sulphur oxides and nitrogen oxides are formed, as well as other gases and heavy metals. Sulphur oxides and nitrogen oxides are transported by large-scale air mass movements. In the process the gases are converted to their acid components.

Measurements of the current level of chemical components in precipitation show that extensive areas of North America receive about 40 times more acid than normal. This excess is deposited as wet fallout—rain, snow, fog, etc.—as dry fallout, as dust particles and as gas or air. Some components of acid precipitation such as ozone are secondary pollutants. These are not emitted directly but are formed as a result of chemical transformations of nitrogen dioxide and reactive hydrocarbons.

On a list of Canada's 10 largest sources of sulphur dioxide Inco is number one. However, Hydro's coal plants at Lambton, Nanticoke and Lakeview rank fifth, sixth and 10th respectively. In 1980 Inco polluted the skies with 866,000 metric tons of sulphur dioxide, while Hydro was responsible for 410,000 metric tons.

Mr. Haggerty: That is a long ton.

Mr. Riddell: That's right. That same year Hydro contributed fully 22 per cent of all the SO₂ produced in the province.

Mr. Havrot: SOBs too.

Mr. Riddell: I agree with you there. Truer words were never spoken, my friend.

Hydro is now under a provincial control order to reduce acid gas emissions to a level of 300,000 metric tons of sulphur dioxide and nitrogen

oxide by 1990. This is a step in the right direction if we are to control acid rain. However, Hydro and the government have kept very quiet about the fact that Hydro's emissions are actually going to increase substantially before they start to decrease under the control order.

Let me give members a few statistics. As I mentioned, in 1980 Hydro spewed 410,000 metric tons of SO₂ into our skies. The control order on Hydro was announced in January 1981, but nothing will really begin to change until 1986. The figures speak for themselves. In 1981 Hydro emitted 509,000 metric tons of SO₂, a 24 per cent increase over 1980. Hydro documents predict for 1985 an emission level of 560,000 metric tons of SO₂ over 1980 levels, a 36.6 per cent increase. Hydro's chairman has said that Hydro will cut emissions in half by 1990. This may be true on the basis of planned emissions for 1982, but it is only a 36 per cent reduction on the basis of emission levels for 1980 when the control order was written.

As a farmer, I am concerned about my crops and what acid rain is doing to them. The damaging effects of acid rain, and particularly ozone, on vegetation and the resulting yield reductions in many crop species have been well documented in the eastern United States and Ontario. These crops include tobacco, white beans, which are grown very extensively in my riding, soybeans, corn, potatoes, grapes, onions, cucumbers, celery, pumpkins, squash and radishes. Loss of plant tissue may approach 15 to 30 per cent and yield losses of five to 10 per cent may occur to the most susceptible crops.

I have told you, Mr. Speaker, that Hydro plans to reduce emissions to a level of 300,000 metric tons per year by 1990. Emissions could go much lower if scrubbers were installed, something we in the Liberal Party have advocated for years.

Even without additional scrubbers, emissions could be reduced to approximately 225,000 metric tons by 1990. How can this be done? By not proceeding with the General Public Utilities cable deal, which the member for Oriole talked so much about, to deliver firm power to the owners of the ill-fated Three Mile Island nuclear station. We have argued about this cable deal in the Legislature since last November. As a matter of fact, we raised the matter before the federal environment ministry, and Energy Probe, the Canadian Coalition on Acid Rain and Ralph Nader all took offence at the deal.

5:40 p.m.

Many members, particularly those who come from a rural environment, are aware of the effect of acid rain on the crops. The white bean industry has been almost wiped out in some areas of the province. The white bean industry used to be centred in the Essex and Kent parts of Ontario. There is hardly a field of white beans to be found growing in that area now, the reason being that the pollutant drove the bean industry out of that part of Ontario.

Many people say we should stop burning coal to make electricity and that we should use nuclear plants instead. The truth is that nuclear plants are as guilty as coal-fired plants of producing dirty power. We never hear the full story from Hydro. We are told that nuclear plants produce cheap, clean electricity.

An hon. member: The safest in the world.

Mr. Riddell: I would like to hear my friend say that if ever the present situation we are facing in the world today accelerates. I do not think I have to say any more about that. Let us not say it is the safest thing on the face of the earth.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: What are you talking about?

Mr. Riddell: Before I actually insult somebody over there, I will not say what I was going to say. We never hear the full story from Hydro. Does the member ever read the papers or is she so entrenched in her work that she never gets to read the newspapers to see what is going on in the world?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Of course I read the papers.

Mr. Riddell: Doesn't it bother you?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): The honourable member has the floor. Please do not pay heed to the interruptions. They will have their turn for a response to the speech.

Mr. Riddell: We are told that nuclear plants produce cheap, clean electricity. We are not told of the millions of tons of uranium mine tailings that litter northern Ontario, mine tailings with low levels of radiation affecting local, aquatic and terrestrial life in a slow and insidious fashion. We are not told of the swimming pools that nuclear plants fill with nuclear fuel bundles for which Hydro have not figured out a disposal method. These hazardous wastes will have to be entombed in glass, concrete and stainless steel over 1,000 metres below the surface and monitored for literally tens of thousands of years before the radiation level is reduced. This is the legacy we are passing on to

future generations of people. Isn't that a fine how-do-you-do?

Hydro does not tell us about heavy water spilled at nuclear plants, the occasional venting of radioactive steam or the releases of radioactive water into the lakes and rivers near Ontario's nuclear generating stations. For a crown corporation owned by the people of Ontario, Hydro tells us very little about matters of serious concern. I have outlined the Goliath nature of Ontario Hydro, the immense crown corporation that seems to advise the government what will be done rather than being advised by the government as to what should be done, the corporation whose mismanagement of public funds has been allowed to run rampant for too long, the corporate polluter that often does not tell us the facts about its pollution.

I would like to tell members of a Hydro plan that will again rape our agricultural countryside. Members will be aware that Hydro is seeking approval from the province's Consolidated Hearings Board for a plan to construct a second 500-kilovolt corridor out of the Bruce nuclear power development by 1988. This is intended to provide another connection between the huge installation near Kincardine and the provincial power grid. Six routes have been proposed. The one preferred by Hydro would link the Bruce complex with the London area, with a second connection to be built between London and Hydro's Middleport transformer station near Brantford.

Let us put a few things into perspective on the Bruce development and Hydro transmission lines in general. During the 1960s the Bruce plant was planned in two stages, Bruce A and Bruce B. Both were to be composed of four 750-megawatt units. Bruce A's units were to begin production at different times between 1975 and 1979, Bruce B's between 1981 and 1984. In addition to problems arising from erroneous demand forecasting by Hydro, delays in construction occurred, as is so often the case with large projects. The four units of Bruce A began production between 1976 and 1980. The first unit of Bruce B will not come into service until April 1984, while the fourth unit is not scheduled for service until January 1987.

Hand in hand with Hydro's big-is-beautiful philosophy of constructing large generating stations is a commitment to a complex and integrated transmission system. It is not simply a question of each plant supplying one area by means of one transmission line. The large plants in the major load centres are all linked by a high

voltage transmission grid. Advantage can therefore be taken of differences in pattern of use among various areas. This enables power to be diverted if parts of the system fail. Transmission lines in this grid are operated at high voltages because high voltages enable power to be transmitted much more efficiently and therefore much more cheaply. The Ontario Hydro grid was created by increments made over decades and is composed of 115, 230 and 500 kilovolt lines.

I am especially concerned that the construction and operation of these transmission lines may have large and harmful impacts on the social and physical environment, particularly on the landscape, wildlife, land ownership and use. These lines are visible from long distances, occasionally from several miles away. As we all know, they are far from being attractive. In urban areas they may blend into a tangle of concrete and steel, but in rural areas they are a visual blight on the otherwise attractive landscape.

Those farmers who already have transmission towers cluttering up their property are all too well aware of the problems and concerns arising from the installation. Yields are reduced as permanent land is lost under and around towers and weed infestation often results. Efficiency is reduced due to additional time being required to farm around towers, not to mention the need for weed control material.

Loss of arable land is possible, depending on rights of way and the irrigation system used. Aerial spraying operations are also impaired, which may lead to additional costs for the farmers. Vegetation at the base of towers and under wires must be cleared or controlled for servicing and safety. This may cause erosion and harm to wildlife habitat, especially if there are changes in temperatures or water levels in streams and swamps. The lines also restrict the use of land because they are incompatible with most other uses.

Some vital questions must be asked in connection with Hydro's preferred corridor route. Is too much prime agricultural farm land being lost? Is there an actual need for the project? What hearing procedures are being followed? Hydro has studied six different routes, but the route known as M-1 is favoured. This route happens to be the one which destroys the greatest amount of class 1, 2 and 3 agricultural land. Ninety per cent of the route traverses class 1, 2 and 3 prime agricultural land and this would

have the effect of putting out of production some 675 hectares of good farm land.

Frankly, I am appalled by this situation. Hydro obviously does not understand the importance of the farming community to the province. Equally obvious is the fact that the government has not informed Hydro of its apparent commitment to the farm community.

Mr. Boudria: What commitment?

Mr. Riddell: They have food land guidelines which they could enforce if they wanted but they do not want to. It is nothing but window dressing and has been ever since they introduced the guidelines.

The priorities of Ontario Hydro and the government must be questioned. Hydro likes to point out that this province is a net exporter of electricity, some \$300 million to \$400 million worth per year. However, no mention is made of the fact that we are a net importer of food, about \$1 billion worth per year. In fact, in 1980 Ontario imported some \$600-million worth of fruit and vegetables.

Surely our increasing dependence on food imports should be a concern to all of us, bearing in mind that in many of these foods we used to be self-sufficient. Surely our increasing dependence on their importation should be of concern to all of us. We have gone from being practically self-sufficient in food production in Ontario to being a net importer of food. How in the world can we afford to let any more prime agricultural land go out of production because Ontario Hydro chooses to put a power corridor through the best agricultural land in the province?

Interjections.

5:50 p.m.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is not because of lack of production. It is because of a change of taste. People now want lettuce all year round. They didn't used to.

The Acting Speaker: The member for Huron-Middlesex has the floor.

Mr. Riddell: I might suggest it would be better if the minister ate more lettuce.

The government's own reports indicate that over the next two decades it will be necessary to provide the equivalent of one million hectares of new food production capacity if we are to maintain current levels of self-sufficiency while meeting future demands. It is also well known that with the same energy input class 1 land produces 100 per cent more food per hectare than class 4 land, while class 2 land produces 60

per cent more and class 3 land nearly 30 per cent more than class 4 land. Ontario is in the fortunate position of being able to grow many specialty crops which are difficult if not impossible to grow elsewhere in Canada, yet Hydro is allowed to continue carving up this prime food-producing area with its transmission corridors.

Through the BILD program—I use that term rather loosely; some on this side refer to it as the “bilge” program—the Tory government appears intent on the intensification and expansion of the agricultural industry. The program recognizes the fact that up to 50 per cent of the \$4-billion worth of food imports in Canada in 1979 was replaceable by production primarily in Ontario. Yet the government, through Hydro, condones the disappearance of some of this production capability.

Further, it seems clear that Ontario will move towards intensification of farm systems with increased emphasis on production of specialty crops, including fruits, vegetables and oil seed crops. It is therefore imperative that high priority be given to conserving that land for agriculture which, by virtue of soil and climatic conditions, provides greatest flexibility in responding to future changes in technology and farming systems. For the Tory government and Ontario Hydro to impair or reduce this flexibility is nothing less than criminal.

Interestingly enough, these are some of the concerns presented to the Consolidated Hearings Board in a report for the Institute of Pedology prepared for our wonderful Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell). That report recommended another route, one which would minimize the impact on farm land.

Responding to the report a Hydro spokesman said: “The soil scientists who wrote the report would be on shaky ground if they were criticizing Hydro's preferred plan. Except for a few people in Huron county, the preferred route was accepted by all the farm groups.” But it was accepted by all the farm groups who would not be affected.

The Tory government has often been careless with food land; in fact, it has mastered the art of carelessness. Did the Tories tell Hydro to press for the Huron county route because the route would impair good farm land or because the ridings of Huron-Bruce and Huron-Middlesex are represented by Liberals? I have to ask that question of myself and I have to wonder how committed the Tories and Hydro are to the farm

community in the light of the decision they have made on the preferred route.

When considering a project of this magnitude, actual needs must be considered. We have found more often than not that when Hydro says we need something, we really do not. Hydro is a power-hungry bureaucracy out of control and for Hydro big is beautiful and powerful.

The Ontario Ministry of the Environment is supposed to protect our environment, but unfortunately the minister and his staff are not doing a very good job. Ministry officials have appeared at the Consolidated Hearings Board, but they have been entirely neutral on this project. In mid-December a report was released on the project which was part of a provincial review required under the Environmental Assessment Act, which in this case has come under an application to consolidate a number of hearings under the new Consolidated Hearings Act. That review report was critical of the Hydro proposal, noting the Hydro study failed to look at the alternative of voltages lower than 500 kilovolts.

The report stated, "Extensions to the existing 230-kilovolt network rather than new 500-kilovolt facilities might prove to have less environmental and financial impact." Furthermore, the report says Hydro clearly intends to export more electricity to the United States and the Bruce lines are part of such a plan. However, Hydro has not proved this to be in Ontario's best interest.

There is cause for serious concern. Hydro has so overexpanded generation capacity at our expense that markets must now be found for the electricity; otherwise the plants will become white elephants. That is the reason we are looking to some other countries to utilize our hydro.

The whole question of Ontario supplying electricity to the United States must be considered. Hydro seems big on this lately. However, it is supposed to be serving the people of Ontario, not our neighbours in the United States. There is no reason in the world why electricity customers in this province should be subsidizing electricity rates for American customers. Let us not forget that Ontario Hydro does not charge the American purchaser the capital cost invested in generation facilities, the interest cost in building the plant, or the cost of operation.

The whole Bruce transmission corridor which Hydro prefers is tied to getting electricity to the Buchanan transformer facility in London. This transformer must provide the bulk power for Sarnia, Chatham, Windsor and Hydro's three

interconnection lines to Michigan. Based on anticipated export sales to the United States, the Buchanan transformer station is expected to be severely restricted by the late 1980s. A Hydro official told the hearing board that without additional transmission lines into London from the Bruce nuclear power development we would be forced to back off from our sales of electricity to the United States.

If that has to happen, so be it. Ontario Hydro was designed to serve Ontarians, not our United States neighbours. Hydro has stated that the transmission line would eventually be needed even without Hydro's power connection with United States utilities. However, Hydro spokesmen testified before the hearing panel that the power lines would not be needed until at least the next decade without the importance placed by Hydro on its interconnections with the United States.

Hydro's fervour for exporting power to the United States is clearly demonstrated in the controversial GPU cable deal currently being negotiated, a deal that will be detrimental to Ontario's environment. Does Hydro have a hidden agenda for exporting nuclear power to the United States, using nuclear plants paid for by Ontario consumers and utilizing power corridors that are raping our productive farm land?

It is no coincidence that in September of last year Ontario Hydro president Milan Nastich delivered a detailed outline to the American Public Power Association on the idea of exporting Canadian nuclear power, suggesting that Canada and the United States are "on the verge of a marriage" with Canada apparently selling cheap electricity to the United States. All that is lacking is the "political will" to make it happen, he said.

It is even less of a coincidence that two months after Mr. Nastich's speculation, the Minister of Energy, speaking at the Atomic Industrial Forum's annual convention in San Francisco, stated that the Canadian and United States governments should consider "the possibility of building nuclear generating plants in Canada to export to the United States."

I see my time is practically exhausted. I will wind up by saying I have painted a picture of Hydro that may be unfamiliar to many people in this House and certainly to many people in the province. I know the people at Ontario Hydro would not be too pleased with my comments. However, everything I have told you is true.

Mr. Stokes: Almost.

Mr. Riddell: The facts are documented.

Mr. Williams: Pretty distorted.

Mr. Riddell: If the member questions any, he can let me know.

All of these matters are of serious concern to members of the Liberal Party of Ontario. Hydro is supposed to be an agent of the people of this province, but from the picture I have painted

members can see that Hydro is merely its own agent. It is a Goliath of a corporation with an astronomical debt. It is a crown corporation which is out of control.

The House recessed at 6:01 p.m.

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Legislature of Ontario Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Official Report (Hansard)



Second Session, Thirty-Second Parliament
Monday, April 19, 1982
Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Monday, April 19, 1982

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

LIBERAL POSITION ON URANIUM CONTRACTS

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker, on a matter of personal privilege: While the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell) was speaking to the throne debate there were some interjections from a member of the Socialist party related to the position of the Liberal Party on the uranium contracts. I would hate to think the years have eroded the member's memory.

The Deputy Speaker: You are testing my patience on your point of privilege.

Mr. Kerrio: On my point of privilege, I would like to read into the record an important paragraph from a report of the select committee on Ontario Hydro affairs relating to that specific matter to which my leader made reference.

The Deputy Speaker: How many sentences long is it?

Mr. Kerrio: I will cut it down to one paragraph that sums it up.

The Deputy Speaker: That is not what I asked, but go ahead.

Mr. Kerrio: "The Liberal members therefore are of the opinion that we cannot endorse the record of maladministration or the uranium supply contracts which have been imposed upon Hydro as a result. To do this would be irresponsible and the abdication of the committee's parliamentary function."

I would also like to quote a comment made by our former leader. On February 28, 1978, Dr. Stuart Smith said: "I am saying to you that this has been a failure on the part of the government to defend the interests of our people. I would say to the government, don't sign."

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker, the point had to be made.

The Deputy Speaker: The chair has taken your point of privilege. We have given you ample time.

Mr. Riddell: Donald MacDonald was misleading the House.

The Deputy Speaker: Let us not hear such

phrases as "misleading the House." It was my understanding that the member for Huron-Middlesex had the floor. Has he finished?

Mr. Riddell: Yes.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, in response to the so-called point of privilege by the member for Niagara Falls—

Mr. Kerrio: It is here in the record. What the member for York South (Mr. MacDonald) said is opposite to what the record states. You were wrong. Why don't you just admit it and do your thing?

Mr. Wildman: I am ready to admit it. If I understand his position, what he is saying in "correcting the record" is that the Liberal Party opposed the signing of the uranium contract.

I am very glad he has clarified that point and I am sure my friend from Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Lane) is also glad he has clarified that point, because in the last provincial election the Liberal candidate for Algoma-Manitoulin, one Ernie Massicotte, went around telling everybody in the riding that the Liberal Party is pro-nuclear, that the Liberal Party is in favour of expansion in Elliot Lake and that the Liberal Party was in favour of the Denison-Rio Algom contract.

I am very happy the member for Niagara Falls has set the record straight, and I am sure my colleague from Algoma-Manitoulin will broadcast the member's comments throughout Elliot Lake so that everyone there will know where the Liberals really stand on nuclear energy.

Interjections.

Mr. Wildman: It is always amusing when I hear my friends in the Liberal Party trying to have it both ways on all issues, no matter what the issue.

Mr. Kerrio: One way. The record says it all.

Mr. Wildman: The member for Niagara Falls seems rather excited. I do not quite understand. I am agreeing with him; I am thanking him for correcting the record.

Mr. Riddell: What is your stand on doctors striking?

Mr. Wildman: If they are striking against nuclear power, I am for it.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session?

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, I did not intend to get involved in this debate, but since the member for Niagara Falls wanted to clarify the record I just wanted to thank him so that we will now be able to set the former Liberal candidate for Algoma-Manitoulin straight as to what the Liberals' position really is on those uranium contracts.

As I begin to speak on this debate I want to add my congratulations to those of other members of the House on your election to your position as Deputy Speaker and also to pass along my congratulations to the Speaker for his elevation to his high office. I hope, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that you will be sure to get the GO train to your riding because I think you serve very well in that capacity and I would hate to see you resign.

I wholeheartedly support the comments made in the amendment to the amendment moved by my colleague the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) and I agree with him that the major issues facing this province today are unemployment and the disastrous effects that the record interest rates we face today are having on the economy in general.

I am disappointed in the throne speech presented by the government and for that reason I support the no-confidence motion proposed by our party. The throne speech indicated to me that the government itself lacks a great deal of confidence. We have record unemployment in this province. When we count those who are no longer listed in Statistics Canada figures we have over half a million people unemployed in this province and yet very little was said in the throne speech address by His Honour which dealt with that.

As a matter of fact, the throne speech mainly was an attempt by this government to shirk its responsibility, to point the finger at the federal government and say that this provincial government cannot do anything, that it is up to the federal government and, unfortunately, since the federal government has not acted we face a terrible economic situation. This indicates to me that the government itself has very little

confidence in its ability to deal with our economic problems.

Mr. Boudria: Maybe it will vote no confidence against itself.

Mr. Wildman: Yes, if the members of the party opposite were to be honest with themselves they would, in fact, vote no confidence, because that certainly was demonstrated in the speech from the throne. I expect, however, that the members opposite will go on with their fed-bashing and will not offer anything on their own, and we will see them vote down the amendment and the amendment to the amendment but at the same time not offer anything new to deal with our problems.

I want to say, though, before I deal specifically with some problems in my riding and the economy of this province in general, that there are some things in the throne speech that I welcome. I welcome the comments regarding the Charter of Rights and the new Constitution. I have some problems with them, but I will get to that in a moment. Also I welcome the comments about the expansion of day care, the attempt to meet the needs of the elderly in remote northern communities and the statements regarding the government's commitment to strengthen the equal-pay provisions for women in our economy.

8:10 p.m.

However, looking at those specifics, I must say there are some serious shortcomings in the Charter of Rights. I have made clear in the past my feeling that the statements with regard to aboriginal and treaty Indian rights in the Constitution ring very hollow when one looks at exactly what has been said. A commitment has been made to existing rights, when nobody, the Indian organizations, the provinces or the federal government, knows what that phrase means.

All we have to do is look at this provincial government's record with regard to native hunting and fishing rights to understand the lack of commitment, at least on the part of this government, to those basic rights of our aboriginal people. We have seen a long stalling approach by this government with regard to resolving the Whitedog and Grassy Narrows mediation process. It seems this government has a long record of promises that have been reneged upon, a long period of stalling, of lack of negotiations, so that we have seen a situation—

Mr. Boudria: Procrastination.

Mr. Wildman: The member says procrastination. Frankly, I do not think it was procrastina-

tion. I think it was a deliberate attempt to undermine the whole mediation process. Now that the government finally, as of December 1981, has committed itself to resolving the matter, we find that Great Lakes, which previously had used the government's stalling as an excuse, is now looking for other excuses and is saying that the agreement with Reed is not there, and it looks as if we are going to see a long drawn-out process continue before that very serious matter is resolved.

With regard to the question of francophone rights, I have also made clear I feel the Charter of Rights is wanting. I believe the provincial government should have voluntarily accepted section 133 of the BNA Act to apply to this province so that francophones in this province would know their rights are respected and they can expect the expansion of services in their own language to people throughout this province.

With regard to day care, to give an example of the serious need we have in this province, I will use the example of Sault Ste. Marie. As a matter of fact, in that city we require about 1,200 spaces and there are only 350 spaces available. The commitment to the expansion of day care will only be worth while if this government is ready in the budget to provide the resources necessary to create the spaces that are badly needed.

With regard to the needs of the elderly in remote northern communities, I know my colleagues from northern Ontario, especially my colleague the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes), and others have been pushing very hard for this for some time, because we have situations where the elderly are forced to leave their homes and travel many miles in order to get the services they need because of the lack of services in their own communities.

In my own riding, in Wawa, for instance, the seniors must travel at least 140 miles in order to get nursing care if required, and this has meant the splitting up of couples and reluctance by many seniors to travel far away to get the services they need because they would be going to unfamiliar surroundings and leaving their friends and relatives.

In the most northerly community of my riding, Hornepayne, we have had a pilot project to provide these services to the seniors in their own community. It is funded on a joint basis by the ministries of Health and Community and Social Services. Unfortunately, because of the bureaucratic hangups, those two ministries can-

not get together to provide the permanent building that is required according to the Algoma District Health Council, so we are faced with continuing accommodation in a prefabricated structure which is inadequate, even though both ministries and all concerned have agreed the concept should be expanded.

I hope that, as part of the commitment in the throne speech, this government will finally provide the funding necessary to provide a permanent structure for those services in Hornepayne. I have written recently to both ministers involved and I have had a response from the Ministry of Community and Social Services. It said it is studying it. Frankly, we have had enough studies. Everyone agrees the service is required and that it is a good concept. I hope the government will commit itself to an ongoing program.

I am afraid the equal-pay provisions talked about in the throne speech do not go far enough. After having read some of the statements about affirmative action and so on by the new Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay), I honestly do not believe he really understands the concept and what is necessary. I hope I am incorrect and that we are going to see some real action on those matters.

Having dealt with those parts of the throne speech which I think are optimistic and where we have a chance to get someplace, I would like to deal with what I said was the overall disappointment I felt in listening to that speech by His Honour. In the last provincial election campaign, the government used the slogan "Keep the promise." We all heard that "Davis can do it," that he can "keep the promise" and he will "keep the promise."

In listening to the throne speech, it seems to me the only promise this provincial Conservative government has kept is a commitment to bash the feds at every opportunity. I am no great fan of the federal Liberal government—

Mr. Boudria: Why not?

Mr. Wildman: Why not? As the member knows, the federal Liberal government has led us to the brink of economic disaster. We have to endure greater unemployment, higher inflation and record interest rates. That is why I do not support the federal Liberal government. However, I cannot accept the attitude that apparently pervades the Treasury bench opposite—

Mr. Samis: There is not one cabinet minister here, not one.

Mr. Wildman: That is right. There is not one representative of the Treasury bench here.

Hon. G. W. Taylor: You stand corrected.

Mr. Wildman: Oh, there is one, but he is sitting where he really should be sitting. He has a better view from the back row.

I cannot accept the attitude that seems to pervade that bench: "We cannot do anything. We do not have the confidence to do anything. We cannot resolve any of the problems, so let us somehow do everything we can to shift the blame to the federal level."

I do not debate that the federal government is at fault for our serious economic problems, but other provincial governments have taken the approach that since the federal government is unwilling to act, they will act in their stead.

Mr. Elston: Can you guess which ones they might be?

8:20 p.m.

Mr. Wildman: Frankly, a number of them. I am not being partisan about this. All you have to do is—

Mr. Stokes: Were the federal Liberals in favour of those uranium contracts? Do you think they might have been? Was Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. and others in favour?

Mr. Wildman: I think the federal Liberals were in favour, although it is true they did charge the two companies with price fixing.

A number of provincial governments have acted. One can look at the Conservative government of Nova Scotia which has provided subsidies for mortgages, or the Conservative government of Alberta which has provided assistance to those facing economic hardship in our situation. One can also look at the tremendous program proposed by the Socialist government of Saskatchewan in its latest budget to alleviate the serious problems that all of us face.

Mr. Elston: They were facing an election.

Mr. Wildman: It is not just in the face of elections. Certainly, the Saskatchewan government was going into an election, but the Manitoba government just came out of an election. They do not face one for some time yet and they have looked at the serious problems faced by the people of their province and said, "We have to do something." So they took action. They provided funding to assist home owners and farmers facing serious economic hardship as a result of the increased cost of capital.

This is not a partisan issue. Unfortunately, the government of this province has chosen to see it

as such, as a chance to attack the federal Liberal government and to avoid taking action to assist the people of our own province.

In my view, the victims of high interest rates and the recession, those who are unemployed in this province, want government action. If they are not part of that cynical group that has now come to think governments cannot do anything, and it does not matter who is in power, they want action. They do not care which government takes action, as long as that action is effective and deals with the problems. I take that same position.

In terms of those people who have become so cynical, in my view, the attitude expressed in the throne speech by this government has contributed a great deal to that cynicism. Basically what the Premier (Mr. Davis) is saying to the people of this province is: "We cannot do anything. It is all up to the federal government." Despite the slogan he used in the last provincial election, "Davis can do it," what he is saying in this speech is, "Davis cannot do it."

Mr. Samis: Davis won't do it.

Mr. Wildman: That is exactly correct.

Mr. Martel: Put in a positive way, "Davis can't do it."

Mr. Wildman: He can do nothing. The Premier can do nothing. In fact, we looked for some kind of hope for those people facing problems of escalating interest rates, but there was no relief in the throne speech. There was not even an attempt to look at a moratorium on foreclosures. There was absolutely nothing in this throne speech for farmers and small business people, the very people this government tries to woo during election campaigns when it tells people it speaks for them; it is in favour of the family farm; it supports small business enterprise because it employs a higher percentage of the people of this province and this country than any other sector of our economy.

Mr. Boudria: Next time, those people will vote Liberal.

Mr. Wildman: Frankly, I am a little concerned that those people are going to come to the conclusion that it does not make any difference, that we are going to have a feeling of cynicism, that politics is just one big game where nobody wins and everybody loses. I think we are failing the people of this province if we allow that feeling to become pervasive.

We in this party have suggested a number of programs that could be used to try to alleviate the problems that have affected the economy of

this province as a result of the ill-advised economic policies of the federal government.

We have suggested that the Province of Ontario Savings Office mandate should be expanded so that it could provide low-interest loans to home owners, farmers and small business people that would be able to compete with the banks in co-operation with the credit unions and the co-operative movement.

This is not simply some kind of Socialist fantasy. We all know that the similar organization in the Conservative bastion of Alberta has followed a similar program. That organization in Alberta has a far wider mandate and is a bigger organization proportionately than is the Ontario one. If it can be done in Alberta it can be done here. But this government refuses to act. This government just says: "It is up to Ottawa. We do not have anything to do with it. Go talk to Bouey and MacEachen." I do not have any confidence that Bouey or MacEachen are going to do anything; and if that is the case, we should be doing something.

Because of the failure of this government to respond to the needs of people who need housing in this province we have had a tremendous downturn, not only in the construction industry but also, in my part of the province in the lumber industry. We have over 3,000 people in the woods industry laid off. That is about one third of the work force.

In my riding at White River, Abitibi-Price has closed down its full operation indefinitely, probably for over a year. This is true of many other towns, as my colleague the member for Lake Nipigon mentioned in his speech. What has this government done? In this case they have not just said it is up to the feds, they have taken some action in co-operation with the federal government.

They proposed an accelerated forest improvement program, which I welcome. It is needed. But if members look at that program closely they will understand that although it is a step in the right direction—it helps to improve the forest resources that we have and provide employment to those people who are laid off—we know it will not in any way replace the jobs that have been lost as a result of the high interest rate policy that has led to the downturn in the economy.

In terms of White River, Abitibi-Price has proposed a number of projects which, if approved, would mean 53 man-weeks of employment. When one considers that 180 men have been laid off for up to a year, 53 man-weeks, while it

will help somewhat, is not going to provide the kind of employment that community needs in order to survive.

Frankly, I am disappointed that this program is dependent on the companies themselves for initiative, because I doubt that these companies are going to take advantage of this program to the extent it would provide the real needs for employment in the small communities in northern Ontario. In the community of White River there are other things this government could be doing on a short-term basis to provide jobs. For example, the Ministry of Natural Resources has been considering a proposed flood control project—a project that is very topical at this time of year since every spring we face problems of flooding in that community as in others in northern Ontario. We have been looking at this program for some time and the money still is not approved, the funding still is not there that could be providing some short-term employment and would be meeting a real need for the community.

Also, the Ministry of Northern Affairs seems to be holding up in some way the approval of the water and sewer project for that community, which could be used to provide needed services and employment in the community. In that regard the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier) has scheduled a meeting in White River tomorrow night—just, coincidentally, when we are supposed to be voting on this motion—and I have been invited. I am hoping that means there will be an announcement approving the water and sewer project for that community so that at least in that way we will be providing some job creation.

8:30 p.m.

If we look at the throne speech in terms of job creation, however, it is generally, as I said, a great disappointment. All we have is a rehash of the so-called Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program, and even that asked for federal participation. The funding that actually has been committed by this provincial government towards BILD projects is very small, compared with the total amounts considered, but the government expresses disappointment again that the federal government has not responded more adequately.

Mr. Boudria: Was the jet part of the BILD program?

Mr. Wildman: To me, the jet is peanuts when one considers the amounts that should be spent in this province on job creation. It is the kind of

issue one can get rattled and unhappy about, but even if they were not to spend the millions of dollars committed on a jet and spent them elsewhere, that would not provide very many jobs.

In my riding, the major BILD program announced by the government during the last election campaign—I realize it was just a coincidence that it was an election campaign; it had nothing to do with that—was a \$19.2-million commitment for infrastructure for the King Mountain project north of Sault Ste. Marie.

There was a big announcement made by the Premier. He called in the present Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) and the local Tory candidate. I was not invited for some reason. He called them all together, with the local chamber of commerce—actually, he did not consult the local people; he only talked to people in Sault Ste. Marie for some reason. At any rate, he called them all together and announced the government was going to commit immediately \$9 million for infrastructure for this development and, over a number of years, a total of \$19.2 million.

That project has yet to go ahead. The high interest rates we face right now have meant that capital for private development has become so expensive that the developer has had to go to the federal government and ask for assistance; but he has received no commitment there. Nothing has happened. So what do we have? A promise; a promise that might be kept in the future but a promise that is not producing any jobs.

Interestingly enough, in making that promise the Premier was ignoring the other community in the area, Searchmont, and the serious needs for adequate roads to serve both the Weldwood lumber operation, which is now facing layoffs, and the ski resort there.

It was only after I raised this matter that we had a commitment from the government, which was rather embarrassed about it, to rebuild the road to Searchmont. But now we are told that it will be only a four-year project; it will not come all at once. They are spreading the funding over four years, and we will not have the thing completed until 1984 or 1985.

Sometimes, when I consider the provision of services or job creation in northern Ontario, I wonder whether the Ministry of Northern Affairs is part of the solution or whether it is the problem. We should look at a couple of examples.

For instance, in the community of Hornepayne

in my riding, in the last few years the ministry has made a great to-do about the Hallmark town centre project, which it was funding in conjunction with Canadian National.

In 1976, the government estimated the total cost of the provincial contribution at \$7 million for the project, which would provide under one roof a number of facilities such as a hotel, apartments, senior citizens apartments, retail stores, a Hudson Bay store, a bank, an Ontario Provincial Police office, a liquor store, a post office, a high school and a recreation facility.

It was touted as something that would provide all of these new facilities to a northern community under one roof at no additional cost to the local taxpayers; the additional assessment from the project would pay for the operation.

Now we find that this showpiece of architectural wonder has experienced jurisdictional and construction problems arising from the lack of planning such that the cost has escalated to \$12.7 million from the \$7 million originally contemplated.

Although construction was finished and the hotel opened officially in November 1980, most of the facilities are still unoccupied. The municipality has refused to sign the leases, because it has come to the conclusion—with which the provincial authorities concur—that to operate it the municipality would be looking at deficits of up to \$90,000 a year. In the face of this refusal, the provincial government has had to guarantee that there will be no deficits and has agreed to take over the operation of the facility in the first year.

Interestingly enough, I tabled a number of questions on the Order Paper dealing with this project on March 31. According to the rules of this House, the interim answers should have been tabled on Thursday or Friday of last week, but this has not been done. We have had no response from this government about what is happening there.

The Ministry of Northern Affairs tends to hold up, rather than expedite, funding for local services to communities. We have had the same problem with the request for additional funding by the town of Blind River, which is one of the few communities in the province that is undergoing a tremendous expansion and, as a result, needs to expand its water and sewage facilities.

The mayor of that community met the Minister of Northern Affairs and, finally, the ministry has agreed to study the financial situation of the municipality. I have written to the minister asking for further assistance from the regional

priorities budget, and I hope that request will be viewed with approval by the government because of the long delay that has occurred.

The Ministry of the Environment resolved problems in Missanabie by using its alternative systems program, and it could be using this program to provide needed services and employment in many other communities. Echo Bay is one such community with ongoing problems.

As well, the Ministry of Natural Resources could be looking at flood control projects on rivers like the Goulais River, which has been proposed for a flood plain mapping program but has lacked funding.

I have talked about a number of local issues in my riding and the need for economic stimulus. Now I would like to deal for a few minutes with the overall economic performance of this government.

Mr. Martel: What performance?

Mr. Wildman: Exactly.

Far from an active role in dealing with the economic problems of this province, the party opposite, which incidentally has purchased 25 per cent of an oil company, seems to think that it cannot become directly—

Mr. Boudria: I thought the member was in favour of Suncor.

Mr. Wildman: Listen to what I have to say.

They seem to think that precludes their becoming directly involved in other sectors of the economy. That government seems to have a blind spot. They seem to be buying the neoconservatism of the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. Walker). Although that minister says that in his new role his main purpose is “jobs, jobs, jobs”—I think that was the term he used—he seems to see the so-called free market as the main stimulus for those jobs.

Mr. Boudria: Nonintervention.

Mr. Wildman: That is right.

That thinking is true even where government investment has been involved, such as in the loan guarantees for the White Farm Equipment company. We have had, sadly, to watch this government and that minister knuckle under to the squeeze play of an American corporation which said, in effect, “We are going to take over this company and if you do not acquiesce to our takeover”—all this against the whole philosophy that led to the provision of the funding—“we are going to close it up and lay off all these people.”

We have the sorry sight of this minister saying, in effect, in the House, “We have saved

the jobs because we have acquiesced to this power play by an American corporation.” If that is to be his approach to economic and investment growth in this province, we are headed for serious trouble.

8:40 p.m.

Even the throne speech was near the minister’s attitude towards foreign investment in its call for the streamlining of the Foreign Investment Review Agency. The throne speech said that FIRA had to be reassessed “to ensure that beneficial investment is not prohibited from entering the country.”

The impression this government is trying to put forward is that FIRA somehow is active in preventing foreign investment in this country. The government seems to have bought the argument of Republican congressmen and senators in the United States that FIRA is somehow prohibiting Americans and American corporations from investing in this country.

In our view, FIRA has not been nearly active enough. More than 90 per cent of the applications to FIRA have been approved. They have not been stopped, despite what the Americans have to say.

Recently my federal leader published an internal report of the federal government on the Foreign Investment Review Agency. In that document, which reviews the literature on FIRA over the past 10 years, there are a number of statistics on the loss of jobs and tax dollars and the barriers to stable economic development which arise out of foreign investment in our economy. I would like to refer to those for a moment.

Basically, this document shows that the provincial Conservative and federal Liberal strategy of attracting more foreign investment to end the cycle of layoffs and unemployment that we are facing now is self-defeating.

For instance, the effect of imports on the components and parts industries in this province, which has resulted in an imbalance of trade over the past few years, is directly related to foreign investment.

In 1978, Statistics Canada showed that foreign-controlled firms were the major conduits into Canada for imported goods. The study concluded that foreign-controlled firms accounted for 72 per cent of all Canadian imports in 1978. The foreign companies’ ratio of imports to sales was almost five times that of Canadian industry.

To quote from that study, “No matter how efficient the independent Canadian supplier

may be, his price can never compete with the internal costing procedures of multinational enterprises."

We experience serious problems because the multinationals often buy from themselves; they have the branch plant buy from the parent firm. And they overcharge, which adds to the profits of the parent firm in the United States or elsewhere; not only are we losing those profits but also we are losing the taxes on those profits to the foreign countries.

The major problem we face in our lack of research and development is directly related to the foreign ownership in this economy. The study shows that in the United States the expenditures for research and development equalled 1.84 per cent of all sales; in Canada the figure was only 0.78 per cent.

Generally, Canadian-controlled firms spent more money on research and development in the Canadian economy than American firms; in Canadian manufacturing firms, the proportion was 1.3 per cent, while the American counterparts spent only 0.83 per cent. This document estimates that Canadians spent \$168 million to pay nonresidents for research and development which our economy and our industry need.

That is the effect of foreign ownership in this province and in this country, and yet we have this government going around saying that what we need is jobs, and that a job is a job and it does not matter whether the company is foreign-owned or Canadian-owned.

In my view, we cannot allow the Milton Friedmans of this cabinet, like the Minister of Industry and Trade, to dominate economic policy in this province. We have already seen what that has meant for White Farm Equipment. We have also seen the minister's attitude during the emergency debate on the auto industry that this party forced.

Even the throne speech recognized that "the greatest single impediment to the revitalization of the economy of this province is the current state of the North American automotive industry." Yet during that debate the Minister of Industry and Trade had the gall to get up in this House and try to tell the House that the situation right now is much better than it was last summer in regard to layoffs.

The minister told the Legislature that there were only 3,300 auto workers on layoff and that the pending layoff of another 1,750 in Oshawa would boost that number to about 5,000, a figure lower than the 11,700 auto layoffs in July 1981. Somehow the minister was trying to imply

that the 6,700 workers who were on layoff last year were no longer on layoff, when they are indeed on layoff but have lost their recall rights because they have been off work so long.

The minister also ignored the parts industry, so that he was able to make this kind of ridiculous argument when we are facing approximately 18,000 workers on layoff in the assembly and parts industries in this province.

It says something about the commitment of this government to economic development and to resolving the economic problems we face if we have the minister who is most responsible, besides the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller), get up in the House and try to say, "Oh, well, we only have at the most 5,000 laid off," when it is almost four times that number. If he really is trying to play with figures, I wonder what he is going to do to try to turn the economy around.

In the throne speech the only thing this government had to suggest with regard to the auto industry was a kind of public relations program to encourage people to buy Canadian, to buy North American. We have argued in this party that we need a major structural change in the auto industry. However, this government claims that we are facing cyclical problems and that we are better off than we were last year and better off in this country than they are in the United States.

The government's own internal documents indicate that over the next few years we are going to lose one third of the auto work force in this province and that those people are never going to be re-employed in the auto industry. A PR program is not going to turn that around.

Other countries have taken action. For instance, Mexico will have a larger auto parts industry within five years than we have in this country. Between now and 1985 the Mexican auto parts industry will grow from 18 to 22 per cent per year. In this province we are losing ground. We have seen 20 plants shut down permanently and we have seen thousands of workers laid off.

One might ask what is the difference between the Mexican experience or, for that matter, other countries, European and Asian countries, and the experience we have here in this province. The difference is economic planning; the difference is government intervention.

In Mexico, the government sets the rules of the game; it has content requirements. Every company that is going to operate in that country and remain foreign-owned must comply with those rules. They also must table operating plans so the government can approve the invest-

ment approaches of each company. We do not have anything like that in this country.

Mr. Stokes: It is not the Suncor type of intervention either.

Mr. Wildman: It is not just a case of buying into a company and not getting control. That country is saying, "If you are going to operate in our country, you are going to have to operate by our rules and employ people from our country."

Ministers of this government go around and make a lot of speeches about the Japanese and the need for Canadian content in the Japanese autos that are sold in this country. I support that. I think the Canadian content should be higher than the 85 per cent that is being called for by the Premier and by this government.

But we all have to recognize that, even if Mr. Lumley were able to persuade the Japanese auto manufacturers to accept content rules, this would not resolve the problems we have in the auto industry. We have such a deficit in our auto parts industry dealings with the United States that we must make some arrangement with the Big Three auto companies in Detroit.

8:50 p.m.

In 1966, Canada provided 75 per cent of the US parts market imports, but since that time we have dropped to 35 per cent. Since 1965, the cumulative parts deficit in Canada with the United States has grown to \$35 billion, and yet this government continues to leave it to the private sector.

The private sector has led us to the brink of economic disaster in the auto industry and, unless the government takes action by intervening and providing economic leadership, we are going to continue to face serious problems in the auto industry.

The Minister of Industry and Trade's predecessor, the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman), used to talk about a comprehensive industrial strategy for the auto industry. This government is still talking about a comprehensive industrial strategy.

In our view, an industrial strategy was needed in the auto industry 20 years ago. Now it is imperative. But, instead, we have ad hoc programs from this government, where it has given grants, loans and incentives. It has provided an auto parts centre, and now it is proposing a promotional program to get people to buy Canadian. That is not going to provide the answers.

What we need, I believe sincerely, is government leadership in the auto industry and in the

economy in general. We need government investment to promote joint ventures and the research and development we need to turn the economy around.

The people on layoff in Algoma Steel, where workers have been generally insulated from the economic problems we have experienced in the past in this province, are now starting to realize that unless the auto and the appliance manufacturing sectors of our economy in southern Ontario are turned around they are going to face long-term shutdowns and layoffs. We already have up to 1,500 people laid off at Algoma Steel. The market has to be developed.

As long as we have high interest rates at the federal level, we are going to be in trouble if this government refuses to take action. I plead with this government to rethink its position so that when it brings in a budget next month we will see serious action to turn our economy around and to provide jobs, to alleviate the difficulties people are experiencing in home ownership, in purchasing automobiles and appliances, and in operating farms and small businesses, so that we see a real turnaround in our economy and we get things back on the road again.

I hope the Treasury benches will not be deaf to the pleas that have been brought to them in this House throughout this throne debate. I am not optimistic, but I certainly hope we see an end to fed-bashing and real government action to deal with our economic problems.

Mr. Kennedy: Mr. Speaker, I have several subjects I would like to touch on tonight—

Mr. Laughren: Are you going to talk about keeping the promise?

Mr. Kennedy: That is not one of them.

First, though you have occupied that position for close to a year, Mr. Speaker, I have not had the opportunity to offer my congratulations to you in ruling this unruly House. I wish you well as you proceed with those significant responsibilities.

The same applies to the new Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson). I have not had an opportunity in debate to congratulate him on his success in winning the leadership of the Liberal Party, and I wish him well. Of course, it would be somewhat hypocritical if I wished him too well. After all, we are in the field of partisan politics. But I do hope he retains the position he now enjoys for many years.

I think this observation could apply on all sides of the House, and certainly on this side; if one stops and reflects with some seriousness on

the value and appreciation for constructive criticism, it really adds a dimension of excitement to the parliamentary process to have a vigorous opposition. I think we should retain a healthy respect for it, because it is fundamental to the betterment of the welfare of the people we represent.

Similarly, I wish the new leader of the New Democratic Party success in his responsibilities and contributions, although I cannot go so far as to wish him a Premiership.

We have been through several decades of debate with respect to the patriation of our constitution. I want to touch briefly on that. It was very interesting to attend on Saturday morning. I was most pleased with the number of citizens who came out and participated in the ceremony we had here at Queen's Park. There were some 4,000 or 5,000 people. The estimates had been considerably below that. It was most encouraging. There were a lot of children, people from many racial backgrounds, and I thought it made up a representation of the mosaic of this province.

I was somewhat interested to have several who were in attendance speak to me with some misunderstanding, with some confusion and a lack of clarity as to the role of the monarchy now that we have our own constitution. As I explained, the new act really was silent on that, which means the relationship with the monarchy remains as it is. I know it is as I would have it, and I think as this province and this House would have it.

It pointed up that there was some confusion. Perhaps the members in their activities over the years could bring clarity to that and reiterate that what it really means is we now have the constitution here, we can make changes without reference to Westminster, but we certainly have warmth and high regard for the monarchy and for Westminster. We also retain a vigorous membership within the Commonwealth of nations.

With respect to the throne speech, His Honour once again presented a fine document for the assembly to digest and process throughout the remainder of 1982 and perhaps beyond. It was a broad document. I do not see any limitations in it whatever. There is great scope in it.

I wish to speak on several topics. One that has been of great interest to me, and I know to some other members, is the need for high-technology training, for apprenticeship training, for skills training and the drastic need to expand certain of our skills training programs and facilities.

Our country secured its enviable position among the world's industrial nations because of its great wealth of natural resources—mines, forests and prairies—plus its inexpensive energy and the skills and industriousness of its people. This enabled Canada to achieve a standard of living perhaps exceeded by only one or two other countries in the whole world.

However, it is apparent we can no longer maintain our competitive position in world trade by virtue of our surplus of resources. In the years ahead, we must rely on the skills and productivity of our work force to retain our position in the industrial society. We must now prepare for the impact of the technological revolution which may rival the industrial revolution in its influence on our way of life. We must place a very high priority on training and retraining skilled people to produce and operate the sophisticated equipment required to satisfy the demands of tomorrow's society if Ontario is to remain the industrial heartland of Canada.

9 p.m.

We have the structure available through our very successful community colleges and, to a degree, through industry to provide the training if we apply ourselves to utilizing this potential. I want to return to that later in more detail.

There has been a lot of rhetoric with respect to this, but the work and research I have done brings forth what to me are some of the facts of the situation as it currently exists. These perhaps will not surprise honourable members, but this is the way it distills out from a myriad of reports, discussions and seminars that have taken place over these years.

One is that there has been a persistent shortage of skilled workers. Two, our apprenticeship and skills training programs have had only limited, so-so success. They are not adequate.

Mr. Nixon: That is the understatement of the year.

Mr. Kennedy: They are not delivering the skilled people we need.

Mr. Nixon: I thought you were assisting the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson).

Mr. Kennedy: The involvement of industry here is nowhere near that of Europe. Our philosophy and our attitudes are different. Our efforts are fragmented. The processes of how one enters and graduates as a skilled journeyman are not clearly understood by the public, and perhaps in industry and trade circles as well.

I feel our unemployment levels would be

lower and our production higher had we not had this mismatch between skilled workers and jobs either available or that might have been created had we been able to respond to the market potential that would be out there if we got going and produced.

That is what has come to me as a result of some of the facts of the situation based on this wealth of material that is available to anyone. To go on, the throne speech refers to the subject as follows: "While Ontario's training infrastructure is without parallel in Canada, more can be done to meet changing needs. We reaffirm our commitment to the development of skilled manpower in this province and we will work to ensure that adequate funding and design are committed to occupational training. Particular attention will be paid to the introduction of a wage incentive program for the training of high-level software development specialists."

I am not sure just what "we will work to ensure adequate funding" means. We need funding and we need labour, management and federal co-operation. We need a changed attitude by society towards these skills. We need a very high respect for those who have these skills and those workers rate that respect because they have talent and skills that are very special. We should recognize that.

The throne speech goes on: "Ontario is prepared to work co-operatively with the federal government to improve the manpower training system. However, we are convinced that no significant advance can be achieved without meaningful and substantial input from the parties most directly concerned—labour and management. Accordingly, Ontario will expand the membership of the Ontario Manpower Commission by the addition of senior representatives from the labour and management communities."

This is good. For years there have been reports of a shortage of skilled tradesmen; it is generally known by anyone who has any interest in the subject at all. In fact, this shortage goes back to the days of the late Premier George Drew who brought in tradesmen after the war to beef up and dramatically expand our skilled work force and hence our industrial manufacturing sector.

There are all kinds of studies, briefs, reports and other evidence, as I have mentioned, on the shortage of these skilled workers. During the past month, to check on this, I checked the help-wanted advertisements for skilled employees in the three Metro newspapers. A 17-day

survey in March showed 1,827 separate advertisements for skilled and technical workers. Even so, this figure is understated because many of the ads were pluralized. For example, the ads were not for one welder but for welders, plumbers, mechanics. Actually, we do not know the total number of vacancies, but it is evident there are many. The category containing the largest number of ads, 216, was for mechanics of all types. Clearly these figures support the view that there are jobs out there for qualified people.

Further proof is included in a series of Toronto Star articles by Trish Crawford. One article in particular, dated January 30, 1982, stated that according to the Ontario Manpower Commission a total of 108,000 new highly skilled jobs would be created, but Ontario would produce only about 62,000 workers to fill these. The recent manpower commission report predicts shortages of 38,000 to 48,000 highly skilled workers, and there is reference to this in the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development reports. Last month, too, I happened to tune in to a CTV newscast, Hourlong with Tom Clark, and, lo and behold, they were discussing this subject, the shortage of skilled labour.

Mr. Eakins: Did it mention how Ontario Hydro goes to England for skilled labourers?

Mr. Kennedy: I am just going to tell you what was said in it.

I recently attended the first annual Mississauga industrial trade show, a most successful event with a lot of interest, participation and excellent exhibits, which was most encouraging and impressive. In conversation with the exhibitors, the first thing I asked about was their impression of the availability of skilled labour. This was reiterated, particularly in the field of microelectronics. I am told that Northern Telecom has stated that there will be 65,000 jobs for micro-electronic technologists during the next five years; so the potential is out there waiting for us.

These are a few examples to show the need is real. There are many more examples. One continually hears of this need. What is to be done? What is being done? I know and we all know there are courses in these skilled and technological areas in our community colleges and in the vocational wings of some of the secondary schools. There are some training centres; there are linkage programs; there are apprenticeship programs with industry. These provide some basic training and make a very good effort to open opportunities for young people who may later go on to employment as

technologists of various kinds. These seem to have very limited impact in meeting the need.

9:10 p.m.

In any event, it is not being fulfilled. It should also be remembered that over 90 per cent of the community college graduates find jobs upon graduation. It is something like 94 per cent to 96 per cent and varies a bit according to the course that is taken. Here again, if one is floundering and is not sure what to do, he should go fishing where the fish are. It seems quite apparent this is where opportunity lies.

Many of our highly skilled people are still brought in from other countries. In particular, another Toronto Star article quoted federal Employment and Immigration Minister Lloyd Axworthy as saying 20,000 to 25,000 skilled workers will be imported as the price for not launching training programs of our own in Canada. As my colleague the member for Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Lane) was saying to me, after 115 years there should not be that need in those numbers for this buoyant young country.

Mr. Eakins: Tell Ontario Hydro that.

Mr. Ruston: It's your government.

Mr. Kennedy: Yes, but we have industry here as well and there is a responsibility there. I will be touching on that also.

Despite our efforts, we are not meeting the demand and we are not matching our needs. The Trish Crawford series also reported that according to Donald Pollock, former chairman of the Ontario Manpower Commission, we need better information about where future opportunities are going to be. Unless we get better manpower planning, we will always have a mismatch.

To me there is no excuse for that whatever. That information and analysis should be done. We should be able to forecast and predict within certain limits and come a lot closer to the target than we are doing now. There are many articles, an innumerable number of reports about the problem. I found so much information in reading up on this that it is just about impossible to digest it all.

The general theme is that indisputedly there is a shortage and, sadly, under the present situation it is going to continue for years. We have to turn this around. So far there obviously has not been an effective solution because we still have the numbers. One cannot refute those facts. I think we have attacked it in bits and pieces. We have tried. I do not think industry

has exactly been scintillating in the development of skilled workers. It was much easier to bring them in rather than go through the training process they do in European countries.

In other words, industry has taken the line of least resistance, and economically that may make sense. As one does in the private enterprise field, they always seek the most advantageous bottom line, but they have not been adequate in dealing with the total problem. It has been a fragmented approach. The main thrust of the success we have had has been through our community colleges. To some degree, industry, labour and academia, I would suggest, do deserve some tribute and credit.

In fairness, provincial and federal governments have recently addressed this problem and have done it with unaccustomed vigour. It would be great if it carried through and those numbers of mismatch between need and availability and employment opportunities dropped. The Ontario Manpower Commission is holding follow-up discussions with large industries and the feds have announced a national training plan, but I think it is a fair statement, from what I have been told and discovered, that wage incentive plans have not really had a major beneficial impact.

Significant benefits to the marketplace through this route have really not materialized, and I am sceptical that this method will result in any great change, this reapplication of vigour towards it. No doubt it will do some good and any effort in this direction is commendable, but I think we need a revitalized approach to the problem. We do not need any more studies. We do not need any more statistics. There is ample evidence before us. We need the will. We need the courage. We need the sense of urgency, the investment and the enthusiasm to respond. We need the co-operation and support of academic people, community colleges, industry, labour and management and we need leadership in this field.

In my view, leadership is what we need. I think the direction this should take, the source of it, should be provided through the manpower commission as an overall co-ordinating agency, and it should have the necessary clout to put programs in place. I think the vehicle to deliver it should be, as it is to a degree now, our existing educational structure, specifically and basically the community college system. I say this, knowing that industry has a large stake in what we do, but it does not or has not or will not respond. With the need so evident, the availability of

manpower so evident, it is time to try a new approach in this country. We need to ensure that industry carries more weight in this direction.

I do not think our philosophy, our new vibrant country with resources and with free-wheeling people, and our approach and mentality towards the problem, are comparable to Europe. If we accept that we are different, we might as well face it and get on with achieving through these techniques I have suggested. In other words, the government should lay it on the line with industry, take a larger role, but explain to industry that it must bear part of the cost of doing this because it is, in effect, the beneficiary as we all are.

In that setting, it is my view that as part of this we should have some new facilities to complement the existing ones, both government institutions and the industrial resource base to provide this training. A great example is the need in the field of microelectronics, a field of endeavour that has such a great future it boggles the mind.

Mr. Wildman: The member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy) already dealt with that.

Mr. Kennedy: I acknowledge that others have spoken of this. There is nothing new about it, but I am certainly shoring up and making an argument that we address it with vigour and with a solution in sight, and I will tell the member more about it in a minute.

It can be argued that we have the existing physical plants for such training, and indeed I believe we are not too badly off, but my study and research show we need to build a new trades training centre. I suggest that the location for such a facility should be in Mississauga, which is the fastest-growing municipality in Canada. It is located more or less in the geographic centre of the great industrial area, the Golden Horseshoe. It is the centre of population where both the need and the labour pool are located.

9:20 p.m.

It should be noted that there were 10,000 applications for 3,000 places at Sheridan College for the 1981-82 school year and all signs point to this trend continuing in upcoming school years. In addition, there were no less than 900 applications for 100 openings in a two-year technician-level course in microelectronics. Jobs are available for graduates, as I have indicated.

The additional campus I have suggested could help considerably to reduce this pressure

of applicants. Mississauga is easily accessible and is strategically located to serve both students and industry with maximum efficiency, economy and convenience. I admit that high unemployment exists in other parts of the province, but I believe that if we can generate the skilled people from this point, the benefits will radiate to those other areas.

Finally, there is a specific site which could be acquired, consisting of 200 acres of land just north of Square One. It is now held by the Peel Board of Education. It is a very interesting plot of land because it is part of the former 200-acre Britannia farm which was deeded by the crown in 1834 for school purposes. It was farmed for many years on a lease basis and is still partly utilized for home gardens by residents. However, it is available and I think it would be an excellent location.

The training centre I have suggested could be an adjunct of or even an additional campus of Sheridan College and our other colleges and of the industry apprenticeship programs such as they are. This centre should be established, in my view, through the existing community college system in conjunction with industry and labour. I think it would be a most appropriate and significant course to follow as part of a program towards reaching the objective of self-sufficiency in filling the need for skilled workers in our factories. From such a facility the industrial community could engage qualified recruits.

I do not see this as just another add-on. I visualize it as a high profile, prestigious institute of technology, one that would be renowned throughout Canada and beyond in education, labour and industrial circles. I think if we could focus on the problem through the establishment of such an institution we would indeed be demonstrating our intense desire to compete in the markets of the world.

To this end, the industrial and high technology community, both labour and management, as the throne speech suggested and as I have said, should be involved. These interest groups should not only have significant input into the establishment of this facility, they should be involved every step of the way. That does not need an amendment to the throne speech. That is in there. It just needs a little embellishment, addressing the underlying principle that is in the throne speech. I am suggesting to the government how they achieve it.

Those bodies should be involved every step of the way so that those interest groups feel a part

of it. In the light of the current economic situation, the need for such action as this and such a facility, in my mind takes on added importance to enable Ontario's huge manufacturing and technological sectors to come to grips with the realities of the 1980s and beyond. We simply must become competitive with other countries and not only match but lead in these fields of endeavour. There is absolutely no reason we should not lead. We have the resources, natural and human. There is great potential. The markets are out there if we fight for them. All it needs is to pull this altogether.

The appointment of a new deputy minister in the Ministry of Colleges and Universities with special responsibilities in the field of trades and skills training is a major step and can be part of the overall thrust.

Current discussions between the Ontario Manpower Commission and large industries and the federal government should benefit this as well, as will federal funding; that goes without saying. The spinoffs, as I have mentioned, from a rejuvenated industrial complex will ensure other benefits and other jobs and be a factor in addressing our unemployment situation.

If this facility and this suggested program are put in place, we would then have taken a positive step towards correcting the mismatch between skilled workers and manpower needs.

Mr. Boudria: That is what we have been saying.

Mr. Kennedy: I have not denied that. I am glad the member understands it. His approach might be a little different.

There are a couple of other features of this that should be mentioned in passing. One is to look at the need for research and development in conjunction with the training centre. The object is to develop new technology, new production and perhaps new consumer products to enable such a centre to lead in this fast-changing world. This aspect could very well work in conjunction with the new microelectronics development centre recently announced for Ottawa.

Without a doubt the matter of funding towards the establishment of a new centre will be raised in this time of constraint. That is a legitimate question, but in my view it is an investment that we cannot afford not to make, if I can use a double negative, if we are going to be competitive and grasp the opportunities that are now at hand and will be in the future.

I have mentioned the spinoff benefits. Such an investment is essential as part of our strategy if we are to retain the strong manufacturing base

which is vital if Ontario is to retain its place in the sun in this respect.

I want to touch on two or three other topics. One is a matter of great concern to us. It is Great Lakes pollution, specifically the presence of dioxin, Mirex and polychlorinated biphenyls in our Lake Ontario fish. The latest reports show the incidence of these hazardous wastes is increasing. It simply must be remedied. I know all Ontarians and many Americans will support the Premier (Mr. Davis) and the Ministry of the Environment towards this objective.

I realize one of the problems apparently causing the delay is that remedial measures are tied up in litigation in the US. We should urge Washington to set these aside, continue with the cleanup and settle those at a later date. I am not at all familiar with American jurisprudence, but I am very familiar with the adverse impact of the pollution on our water quality. Therefore, the overriding issue is to clean it up and deal with these other issues later. It is ludicrous that our water quality should be in jeopardy because of this when we know where it is emanating from and we know it can be corrected. Let us get on with it and do it.

9:30 p.m.

Our concern should be conveyed to New York state and Washington in the strongest possible terms and corrective action instituted. I appreciate that the Premier and the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Norton) will be having some negotiations with American authorities over the next two or three months. I wish them well on this. I know they can be assured of the support of this House and the people of Ontario in their mission.

The third subject I want to touch on is the matter of offtrack betting. It has come up from time to time over the years. Just recently, the federal Minister of Agriculture stated that the federal government was going to approve offtrack phone betting. I am not sure if this is a substitute for traditional offtrack or intertrack betting. I do not know, but the same announcement said there would be further announcements about it.

Over the past years I recall a former Treasurer, Charles MacNaughton, saying that he drooled at the thought of the revenue which might be derived from offtrack betting if this government were to expand traditional betting.

Mr. Elston: Was he going to balance the budget with that money?

Mr. Kennedy: That may have been part of the answer; that is maybe what he had in mind.

As I understand it, the initiative lies with Ottawa. If the Criminal Code is amended as may be needed, the provinces are free to go or not to go, to analyse the markets and so on.

There are some concerns regarding the impact offtrack betting might have. I am appreciative of the member for Erie (Mr. Haggerty). He explained that in New York state one of the betting shops is being closed because it is not generating enough revenue, so maybe the bloom is off the rose. That is one of the things that would have to be examined. We also need to protect the smaller tracks and the people in those areas who enjoy attending events in their local communities. They would need to be protected.

With all the other lotteries that have come on, I am not sure if this would have the benefits or the interest it was thought to have at one time. If the federal government does bring forth more amendments and we know where we are at, I think the government should carefully assess just what it all means and whether it would lend itself to introduction in this province and if we want to go in this direction with it.

The other topic I have been very interested in and have addressed is the need for a small business week in Ontario. Members may recall that we debated a resolution I had placed on the Order Paper advocating the establishment of a small business week in Ontario. It has taken on added importance now because of the state of the economy, and I know the resolution at the time received the support of both sides of the House.

I am just going to touch briefly on some of the reasons we should embark on this: to inform the public of the key role of small business in our economy as employer, producer and taxpayer; to promote better understanding of the interdependence of small business, big business, government and the public; to supplement and support the present small business activities that go on throughout the year; to provide a forum to discuss related matters that would assist existing and potential small businesses in management, financing, production and marketing as well as offer assistance towards increasing opportunities for small business; to develop a journal associated with this week that would summarize all the programs and assistance available to small business, one that is easily updated; and, finally, to develop a universally recognized symbol that would aid in co-ordinating the roles

of these participants and in disseminating the information among them. Again, I urge the Ministry of Industry and Trade to consider this seriously.

Another subject I wanted to touch on is the need to remove mandatory retirement at age 65. Here again, this has been the subject of two private members' bills and much public discussion. The Ministry of Labour has commissioned a study; I understand that the reporting will be in the summer of 1982, so we will look forward to that. I simply want at this point to reiterate my support for the removal of mandatory retirement and also to make it very clear that I speak of voluntary continuation of employment up to age 70 if this is desired by the employee.

Finally, I have a private bill on the Order Paper to establish an arbour day in Ontario. This would encourage the production and care of trees and things green.

Mr. Wildman: We had an arbour day when I was in school.

Mr. Kennedy: That's right. I would like to see it reactivated. Some of the reasons are to encourage tree planting, preservation and conservation; to encourage appreciation of the beauty and use of trees; to stimulate interest in and knowledge of trees; and to encourage the landscaping and cleaning of industrial plants, public institutions and private homes. Trees and green things are one of our best antipollutants and they provide the oxygen we breathe, so I would like to see the government give serious consideration to the establishment of such a day.

This has been a somewhat wide ranging speech, at some length with respect to skills training and briefly on these other topics of interest. In summary, the recommendations and suggestions I have made are to establish a trades training centre in conjunction with industry, the manpower commission and the Ministry of Colleges and Universities; to continue to address our very serious concerns with respect to pollution with our neighbours to the south and, indeed, those over whom we have control; later, when we see what Ottawa is going to do, to consider the matter of offtrack betting; to establish a small business week; to extend mandatory retirement age; and to proclaim an arbour day in Ontario.

I hope the government will give some attention to these remarks and, indeed, to the remarks of some of our other colleagues and address itself to them, because I know that those who prepare themselves to participate in throne

and budget speeches do so because they have a genuine interest in the betterment of the people of Ontario. We all look forward to reading and knowing and learning of the interests, the new ideas and the new suggestions they bring forward on behalf of the people of Ontario.

9:40 p.m.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you to the member for Mississauga South. To refresh everyone's memory, we are resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Spensieri: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for that reminder. I am thankful, of course, and honoured by the opportunity to participate in this throne debate, especially in this special sitting, after so many and varied speakers from our party and from across the floor have made their contributions. I would like to single out with some thanks the presence of the Solicitor General (Mr. G. W. Taylor) for whose ministry I have been appointed critic. I think it is indicative of his diligence and courteous nature that he is here, and I hope this is the last opportunity I will have to be so generous towards him.

While this is only the second speech I have heard *viva voce* or in the flesh in this House, I must say it has been one of the feeblest. My colleague the member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Sargent), perhaps emboldened by his longevity in this House, called it an insult to the people of Ontario. I cannot go that far, but I would say it leaves no rational choice but to support my leader's motion unconditionally and to endorse his indictment of the speech on at least four counts. Members will recall that those four counts were: the failure to ensure job creation; the lack of increase in efforts, indeed the lack of any efforts, to preserve and improve the health, social and education sectors; the absence of any help to small business, home owners and farmers; and the failure to provide training programs.

As honourable members opposite may know, I represent roughly the west half of that great city of North York, the part that Tory politicians are fond of referring to as the working district of North York. I am sad to report it has now ceased to be the working part of that once burgeoning metropolis, the fastest growing city in Canada, and has become the unemployed sector of the city of North York. I submit that

this government must take a substantial share, if not all, of the blame for this bad situation.

Let me give but a few examples in my riding. In just the past two months, and within only a one-mile radius of my constituency office, hundreds of jobs have been lost due to plant shutdowns and business failures: Names like Phoenix Paper Products Ltd., which closed its doors forever to 160 workers; Sklar Industries, which significantly reduced its production staff; Chrysler Air Temp, which used to employ 25 production workers in its gas furnace plant; virtually hundreds of small construction and contracting companies employing less than 10 persons each have closed for the winter months never to reopen their doors again. A family business such as D'Amato Construction Equipment, which for 25 years operated in the rental business as a family concern, has now filed bankruptcy. It is being run by receivers at the behest of the lending institutions.

The preamble states, "We in the government of Ontario have always believed that the creation and maintenance of productive employment must be our central concern." Were I to quote these words outside this House to dozens of new Canadians who stream through the constituency office in Yorkview to seek help with unemployment insurance forms and, in many cases, with public assistance applications, they would evoke incredulous and sarcastic laughter.

We on this side of the House can respond in no other way to the cruel joke that is being perpetrated. Just when unemployment is so pervasive, the average Joe has also had to fight off the mortgage interest wolf at the door to his own castle. Entire communities in my riding, such as Gosford Boulevard, a mammoth town house complex, have felt the ravages of foreclosure. People and families who for as many as six or seven years have been making mortgage payments to both the first mortgagee, Guaranty Trust, and to the second mortgagee, the builder, now find themselves as tenants at sufferance in their own homes, a seemingly generous gesture by the lenders who at the first glimpse of the spring price increase will unceremoniously turf them out and sell the properties to the first buyers who cover the outstanding first and second mortgages, wiping out not only equity but dignity and self-esteem.

Every day our constituents walk into our offices with writs of foreclosure, power of sale notices and, the saddest day of all, the sheriff's final notice to evict them. For months, my party

and my colleagues have called for provincial initiatives in short-term interest relief for small businesses and home owners. One would have thought the throne speech would have called for such measures but there was only silence and neglect.

I invite government members to tour the Jane and Finch area of my riding, to tour Driftwood Avenue, Shoreham Drive and Stanley Road—at night, as my colleague suggests—to see the devastation of their neglect spelled out by the multicoloured “for sale” signs; not of the owners’ choosing, I might add.

If they cannot bear a close-up scrutiny of my riding, they can slink along in their limousines on Highway 400 at the permitted speed and they will still be able to see, even from the highway, the signs of misery, the going-out-of-business sales, the bankruptcies, the liquidations and the trustees’ final financial clearouts.

The throne speech refers to a wide range of initiatives to increase the stock of rental housing, particularly around Metro. Over 70 per cent of my constituents live in rental accommodation, a good portion of them in the inadequacy and squalor of assisted housing and public housing.

Can this government not understand that Ontarians, and particularly new Canadians, have no desire for more rental housing? Is it not time to consider ways of bringing ownership to the largest possible number of people by housing co-operatives and by ordering municipalities to allow duplexing and multiple dwellings where space and services permit? Is it not time to encourage building societies along the British and Italian patterns where private individuals can place their savings, receive a tax-free return by way of interest and repayment which will be tax exempt and thereby allow vast pools of funds to come onstream for low-cost mortgages? No initiatives are contained in this direction and, for this reason, the speech fails to achieve any kind of credibility.

The reference to job opportunities for school youths has a hollow ring in Yorkview. For years, the leaders of the black community, the leaders of the growing Spanish-Canadian community, and the leaders of the National Congress of Italian Canadians have been calling for special services for youth. Instead, what do we get? We get the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) who “done brung the cheque” to the youth opportunities program and we get a miserly cheque from Wintario to the people who are running the Caribbean outreach program.

The special report on vandalism cites lack of job opportunities as the main factor in the rise in property crimes. Yet, at a time when 47 applicants exist for every available position, the special plight of youth has received no new initiatives or attention from this government. No announcement exists in the speech of massive apprenticeship programs for the construction trades. There is no mention of joint industry and provincial programs to help applicants qualify for the more than 48,000 jobs for highly skilled workers which cannot be filled now. There are no massive retraining programs about which my leader has so eloquently spoken.

The throne speech also speaks of effective law enforcement. Yet citizens in my riding, and the Solicitor General may take note, live in constant fear of the proliferation of handguns and of other illegal firearms. Our harassed 31 Division of the Metropolitan Toronto Police finds itself understaffed in community relations officers who can understand and relate to the now significant East Indian and Pakistani communities, to the Caribbean communities, not to mention being able to converse in even passable Italian, to deal with the elderly and the newly arrived in our residential areas.

9:50 p.m.

Break-ins, thefts, muggings, holdups, beatings, street gang warfare, rough justice by drug dealers—I ask, is this effective policing? As the critic of the Solicitor General, I hope to address and hammer home some of these points on future dates.

An overworked, poorly staffed and generally demoralized police force sometimes resorts to shortcuts and to questionable conduct. One would have hoped this speech would have contained recommendations for a more critical and effective review of police conduct by civilians, and yet we have no new directions in the area, just a pious letter received a few weeks ago from the office of the public complaints commissioner praying, and I quote, “Please help us make it work.” Only a miracle and divine intervention will make it work.

What is even more amazing is that the new Solicitor General (Mr. G. W. Taylor) has left the glamorous area of police review to the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry), although the ultimate aim of police review ought to be the more effective punishment and disciplining of officers who transgress the rules of conduct. This is a task which the Solicitor General has not seen fit to take up; but then, as far as I know,

the new Solicitor General is not in the leadership race.

One has to have a cruel sense of humour to talk about the significant opportunities for transportation technology export abroad for the Urban Transportation Development Corp. While the speech speaks of empire-building in Europe, Asia and South America, here at home in the northwest corner of Metropolitan Toronto we still live in almost medieval time frames when we speak of urban transit and the time it takes for individuals to reach the city centre.

The province should have taken immediate steps to fund either an east-west subway route along Finch Avenue across the top of Metro or an above-ground rapid transit route along the same street. Transportation of goods and materials ultimately will have to be funnelled through a revived extension of Highway 400, not just to Weston Road, many miles short of the promised St. Clair extension, but eventually to our Gardiner Expressway.

If there is one dominant theme of the speech, it is its failure to address specific Metro problems. Let me highlight just some of these problems.

In the area of property tax reform, there is still no publicly known formula for assessment used by the province. In my own community, in one recently completed subdivision, the Northwood Community Centre, out of 169 new homes constructed, 39 have now been assessed. Even though the homes sold for about \$92,000, the average going price for a semi-detached bungalow, some of the assessments on this new subdivision are higher than homes selling in the \$300,000 range in parts of the neighbouring borough of York and the Forest Hill area. This catch-as-catch-can approach has demoralized home owners in North York. It has discouraged pride of ownership and will ultimately lead to a Proposition 13 type of backlash.

In the area of day care centres, perhaps the highest proportion of couples where both husband and wife work lives in Yorkview. There are 4,100 children on day care waiting lists. Yet when the city of North York started to use school classrooms for nonprofit day care centres, the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Ashe) decided to enforce and apply assessment. If this is an indication of where the throne speech wishes to lead us, then we definitely have to support its rejection.

In the area of workmen's compensation, the speech states that the government will adopt the white paper on worker compensation and "will

continue to confer with interested parties." The essential task of this government should be to commence job retraining programs for those who have been hurt on the job, to provide incentives to employers to rehire those who have been hurt, and to create jobs which the people who were handicapped because of work-related accidents are able to fill.

There was some glimmer of hope in the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture. It is stated: "The lead ministry for multiculturalism in my government will be the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture." We shall see whether the government is serious about its new initiatives in this direction.

Now that the final report of the working group on third language instruction has been tabled, it will be interesting to see whether this ministry, along with the Ministry of Education, spearheads the proposed changes to promote heritage language teaching in Metro as part of a day care program using the additional 150 minutes per week required by the ministry and finally integrating third languages into the daily curriculum.

It will be interesting also to see whether this new ministry, along with the Ministry of Education, creates and promotes programs for cross-cultural studies and generates curriculum material that can be taught in the third language where the numbers warrant.

However, there are serious flaws in substance in the speech from the throne. For this reason, I support my leader's amendment and I would urge other members to do so.

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Deputy Speaker, in accordance with tradition, I congratulate you on your elevation to the high post you hold in the chamber. The Deputy Speakership is an important position and you provide to the office the stability that is needed. We appreciate that.

I would like to spend a few moments this evening talking about a matter that has become very dear to me since I assumed the responsibility of Natural Resources critic for the New Democratic Party. It is very fortunate that the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope) is not here tonight, as that means I will be able to finish my speech without being yelled at, intimidated, threatened or having my privileges as a member withdrawn by the minister himself.

It is unfortunate that the minister responds to criticism in the way he does. He seems to have forgotten that the term "loyal opposition" is a phrase that has a great tradition and that the word "loyal" is in there for a purpose. Appar-

ently he considers that when we criticize him as a minister we are somehow being disloyal to the chamber, if not to the entire democratic process. The minister has an incredibly short fuse when it comes to handling his ministry.

For many years people have been sounding alarm bells about the state of forestry in Ontario. We are constantly being told that cutting practices in the forest are wasteful and that we will run out of trees in the next 10 or 20 years; that the pulp and paper industry is polluting our rivers; that the industry wants all the trees for itself, leaving very little for other users of our forests.

The industry, in return, argues that it is not in trouble; that the public does not understand logging practices; that it is installing pollution control equipment as fast as economically possible; and that indeed it is willing to share our forests with others.

There has been a truly amazing number of reports and studies on forestry in Ontario during the past 30 years. In recent months the federal government has made a report, the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment has sponsored reports and the Ontario government has published reports.

The province admits in general terms that there have been problems but says that the situation is now under control. The industry claims that while it has not always been prudent, a new era has dawned and that the industry, hand in hand with the provincial government, now is going to farm our forests in perpetuity. Independent foresters, either through their association or as academics, disagree with both the government and the industry.

Before sorting out the conflicting views, let us understand why the issue is important and what is at stake for Ontario.

Forest sector employment in Ontario amounts to about 79,000 jobs. Forestry ranks either first or second in all six Ontario economic areas. No other industry comes even close to providing this country with as much surplus in trade. That means foreign exchange and that means the value of the Canadian dollar. Forestry provides Canadians with almost twice as much surplus as do minerals, the number two sector.

Keep in mind as well that the economic benefits of forestry are only a part of the return we get on this incredible resource. Forestry is a very important component in our multibillion-dollar tourist industry. Forests moderate weather, regulate water flows, prevent soil erosion and protect fish and wildlife.

Forestry is a truly remarkable resource. What makes it even more remarkable is the fact that it is all renewable in perpetuity. Employment should always be there, tourism and recreation probably will increase, foreign exchange earnings should increase and the tax revenues should keep pouring in.

10 p.m.

It is perhaps because of this awesome potential that people get excited about forestry. Of course, there can sometimes be a gap between the potential of a resource and what we actually realize from it, and therein lies the problem. If we do not manage our forests well we shall not be serving well either the forests, the industry or the people of Ontario. The stakes are large for all three. A poorly managed forest will not regenerate properly, the long-term interests of the industry will not be served and we the people of Ontario will be the losers.

We are at a period when very critical decisions are to be made. Keep in mind that up to now we have been exploiting virgin forests. These forests had many years to grow, mature and regenerate, giving us nature's mix of particular species of trees and a varied habitat for varied species of wildlife. Now we shall be cutting our second generation of forests and planting a third, and we do not have the luxury of so many years to do it. We must grow that second forest in approximately 100 years or considerably less. If we fail to do the job properly, succeeding generations will claim that we did not understand the difference between a renewable resource and a nonrenewable one. Indeed, we will be accused of turning a renewable resource into a nonrenewable one.

Already there are serious danger signals, even alarm bells. A September 1981 federal government report put it succinctly: "The most important issue facing the forest sector is timber supply. Local shortages of wood at a competitive cost have emerged in every province. In the past it was customary to harvest virgin timber and leave nature to replenish supply. In effect, we mined the virgin forest and gave too little thought to the future crop. Forestry is now in a critical transition stage where mining must give way to systematic forest renewal." That is a good summary of where we have been and where we are now.

How did we get ourselves into this mess? There are readily identifiable culprits: the industry and the Ontario government. They have passed the responsibility for regeneration back and forth between them whenever the state of

the forestry sector became a public issue. At this very moment responsibility is being transferred from the province back to the industry, with the province paying for the nursery stock and certain other costs, such as access roads.

The Ontario government had responded to the wood supply crisis by launching a program of agreements between the Ministry of Natural Resources and the pulp and paper companies. These forest management agreements are supposed to formalize the regeneration and forestry responsibilities of both the ministry and the companies. There are, however, some very real problems in the way in which the whole process is being carried out by the ministry.

First, public participation is a sham. No real policy options or alternatives are laid before the public. We are told what has been decided and asked to submit comments or suggestions. There is a paternalistic and condescending approach to the way the ministry is doing it. We should be given options on a number of variables, such as the alternative uses of the forests, the boundaries of the limits assigned to the different companies, the annual allowable cut assigned to the companies, comparison of lumbering revenues with potential tourist revenues and the real economic and biological values of preserving gene pools in certain areas.

There appears to be no guarantee that the cutting practices of the companies will be dramatically changed. The past practices have been deplorable, with an enormous amount of wood left in the forests to rot. Forest management agreements are being signed before the comprehensive strategic land use planning has been completed in northern Ontario.

It is outrageous to sign FMAs before the district land use plans determine the appropriate land use for that area. The minister is saying to the public, if I can paraphrase: "I reserve that huge tract of land for the industry. You other users, you other would-be users, you fight over what is left." That is unfair to the tourist operators, cottagers and wildlife and park enthusiasts.

The FMAs are exempt from the Environmental Assessment Act. This is an affront to all Ontario residents and not just to those in the north.

The forests are more than a source of raw material for newspapers in New York and magazines published primarily to sell advertising space. The minister does not seem to understand that. This government will still not

subject the FMAs to the Environmental Assessment Act, and that really is outrageous.

Should we not have an impartial assessment of the long-run impact of the maximum allowable exploitation of this marvellous resource? This may be akin to heresy, but I do not believe the Minister of Natural Resources should have the final say on a resource that belongs to all of us. Pulp and paper is important, yes; but so is tourism, wildlife, hunting and fishing, parks and whitewater canoeing.

The FMAs embody a sound principle. That does not mean there should not be meaningful participation to fine-tune that principle. The stakes are enormous and the FMAs are no guarantee that the errors of the past will be eliminated.

I would be much more reassured if the ministry and the industry would admit that we are facing a supply crisis. They claim there is virtually no evidence yet that supply is the crucial issue in Ontario. I believe there is a crisis in supply, and I will tell the House why.

1. The industry is fighting and lobbying ferociously for every single tree in Ontario. They are fighting against the setting aside of just five per cent of productive forest land for park reserves. If supply is not a problem, why can they not get by with 95 per cent of the forests at their disposal?

2. Impartial experts state categorically that there is a crisis. Here are some examples. The federal report known as the Reed report states, "The softwood species accounts for 94 per cent of the current roundwood harvest and represents the most critical supply problems."

With specific reference to Ontario, that federal report says: "The time has now arrived for setting realistic annual allowable cuts for the next two decades. Shortages will become more widespread in the 1980s unless forest renewal performance improves dramatically."

A cutover area assessment, known as the St. Lawrence Licence Cutover Assessment, written by Edward Clemer and Trevor Atkins, is a devastating indictment of cutting practices and regeneration predictions of government and industry. They conclude in their report:

"The government's reforestation program has not been particularly successful. In fact, the only consistent result of the government's reforestation program has been to accelerate the rate of stand conversion from softwood working groups to mixed wood and hardwood working groups. Silviculture treatment has done little to

improve the rate of cutover, success-failure rate and future softwood yields."

This study, which assessed an area already cut over, bodes badly for the yield we may get on other second-generation forests.

A study done recently for the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment by two Lakehead University economists, Anderson and Bonser, also concluded that we are headed for trouble. It should be kept in mind that the authors had no axe to grind in any conclusions they reached.

They warned, "There are several reasons to believe that currently reported annual allowable cuts are more or less inaccurate and seriously overestimate the actual supply of fibre available to the industry on a sustained basis at present levels of logging utilization and softwood-hardwood fibre proportions for pulp and lumber."

More specifically, they state, "Accelerated plus liquidation harvesting means that current annual allowable cuts are not sustainable to the year 2000." Further, "Withdrawals of productive forest from wood production will materially affect fibre supplies." And still further, "Annual allowable cuts would also be adversely affected by any extraordinary fire losses or insect infestations." Then they say, "Forest resources inventory-based estimates of allowable cuts tend to overstate realizable allowable cuts." Those are very damning statements from two independent economists.

In several conversations I have had with professional foresters, it became clear that they regard the forest resource inventories as grossly overestimated. This is a serious matter since the annual allowable cuts are largely based on that same inventory.

10:10 p.m.

Bonser and Anderson also claim, "Management plans are frequently outdated and incomplete, and incomplete management plans, combined with the limitations of the forest resource inventory data, mean that Ontario's annual allowable figures are relatively unreliable and are probably too optimistic." Finally, they say, "Annual allowable cuts will include acreage that has not been adequately regenerated following harvesting." All this leads Bonser and Anderson to conclude bluntly, "Fibre supplies are not only insufficient to support additional manufacturing capacity, they are inadequate to support existing capacity without major improvements in utilization."

What all these quotes mean is that there is a

crisis of supply and the forest management agreements will not avert that crisis. The question we should ask is why the industry and the government would proceed to cut too much wood when it is not in our best long-term interest to do so. The answer, I believe, is that we have a classic case of short-term advantages steamrolling over long-term benefits. The industry has a short-term view. Its rate of return on investment tends to be calculated in 20- to 30-year terms. The length of time to grow a tree is anywhere from 60 to 100 years. The industry, I suspect, believes it can cut more than I think it should and that intensified silviculture will look after the future.

The government is concerned about jobs and about the health of the forestry sector. That means reserving jobs now and allowing annual cuts that maintain the maximum number of jobs. Unfortunately, just as in our personal lives, short-run opportunities may not result in long-run stability. Part of the problem, I suspect, is that the industry has tended to see itself as the only forest user, although it has tolerated tourists, tourist operators, hunters, fishermen and so on. Nevertheless, it has viewed its needs as paramount and those of others as secondary.

While I understand that self-preservation is a legitimate instinct, I do not believe all other users need be excluded. I really believe we could have the best of several worlds. We can have a sustainable yield from our forests. We can cut, plant, cultivate and cut again while, at the same time, respecting the desires of other legitimate users.

Tourism is very important and tourist operators are absolutely necessary if we are to realize the potential this sector offers us. As society becomes increasingly urbanized, more and more people will want to experience the pleasures of our forests, lakes and rivers. That potential will be realized only if we reserve certain parts of our forest land base for tourism. Logging and white-water canoeing simply do not go well together. We have in this province the kind of land base that allows us to give the forest industry its fair share while, at the same time, giving the tourism sector a reasonable resource with which to work.

I should like to spend a few moments on the topic of parks. When many of us think of parks, we think of the highly utilized provincial parks. An increasing number of people, however, think of wilderness parks. It is perhaps a commentary on our way of life that the further people are removed from the wilderness, the

more is their yearning to experience it. One hundred years from now I am certain the present generation will be judged more for the wilderness we preserve than for the cunits we cut.

Our original forests are a unique treasure. We cannot cut them and duplicate them even in 100 or 200 years. The mix of species is as unique as is the wildlife that lives there because of that mix. We can never control nature to the extent that we can demand a precise response to cutting practices that literally obliterate many years of growth, death and regeneration. For this reason it is necessary for us to preserve in perpetuity selected areas of original forests.

The gene pool that exists there is unique and can never be duplicated. It is not a freak of nature that caribou herds frequent the Ogoki-Albany Park reserve. They are there because of the foliage, the rivers, the soil and the particular mix of tree species. I do not believe we can second guess either the caribou or Mother Nature in general. Such areas must be maintained as ecological preserves. I do not care whether we call them gene pools, wilderness parks or ecological preserves. They must be preserved as a meaningful component of a forestry policy.

At the present time park preserves are recognized begrudgingly and are always on the threshold of extinction. They must become untouchable. Parks are not a luxury to be tolerated at the expense of the pulp and paper industry. Parks are a legitimate alternative use of our forests. They are an exciting alternative that has the potential of preserving something very precious. We must not allow our parks to be used as a pawn. They are a valuable and unique resource.

The question we must answer is whether or not we really can have a thriving forestry industry, while at the same time ensuring the rights of other forest users. We can indeed, as long as we make sure that annual allowable cuts are reasonable and that regeneration is pursued with diligence. We have an enormous potential in Ontario now to do what is right for the forests and for future generations. When I think of the present Minister of Natural Resources, I am very worried that he will act without due thought for the future and will act on what is expedient to do now.

There is an example in northwestern Ontario in what is known as the Atikaki area where there is a park reserve. A road is being built there and there is a great deal of controversy in that part of Ontario, near Red Lake in the Kenora area. The

Ministry of Natural Resources held an open house on where this road should be built in order to provide access to the forests. The ministry tends to view the alternatives as it sees which ones are legitimate. They determine the legitimate routes, for example, for a road; then they ask for public input and then they decide what they are going to do.

There is growing pressure in the Red Lake area for the ministry to have a more objective view of that road. There have been two suggestions: one, that the Environmental Assessment Act apply to that road; or, two, that the Provincial Secretariat for Resources Development be the one that makes the decision after looking at all the options. I find the second one less acceptable than the first, but I have a feeling that the government will not go along with an environmental assessment. If that is completely ruled out, a very nice compromise, which the government should be able to live with, is having the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Mr. Henderson) do something useful, do a study on this, because it is hard to justify the existence of the provincial secretariats most of the time.

Mr. Nixon: How can the member possibly say that?

Mr. Laughren: It pains me to say it, but nevertheless it is true.

Here is a situation where people feel very uneasy with Natural Resources making all these decisions because Natural Resources has become a ministry that people regard as almost having a life of its own that is unrelated to the needs of the potential users and lobbies in Ontario. They make their own rules and then they demand that other people go along with them, rather than letting the people of Ontario determine the rules with which we will all go along.

There is an optional road in the Atikaki area which, if the road were built, would offer potential for an Ontario Hydro development, which would be more acceptable to an Indian reserve, which would provide more employment and access to that Indian reserve and which would provide better transportation from Red Lake to Kenora. It would be a better boundary for the Atikaki park reserve and it would have the least impact on the tourist operators who have fly-in operations up there. They do not want the wilderness area disturbed any more than is absolutely necessary. There are options which should be looked at more seriously. Quite frankly, Boise Cascade would

be no worse off; as a matter of fact, they would have a shorter distance to drive for their wood.

10:20 p.m.

I suggest to the ministry there is an option here, an opportunity for them to say that they in this ministry do not have all the wisdom in the world in these matters. I suspect there are an increasing number of groups in that area that are having second thoughts about the ministry's decision-making process, that feel they should hand the matter over to environmental assessment or to the Provincial Secretariat for Resources Development. I would ask that the ministry take another look at that because I think it is being needlessly inflexible on the matter. I address the foregoing to the Minister of Natural Resources who has been listening to this in his office, I am sure. One can always hope.

I should make a few comments about the need for a food terminal in Timmins. The present Minister of Natural Resources, when he was not a minister, promised the people of Timmins that there would be a food terminal. It was a very firm promise. "We are going to have a food terminal in Timmins." It seems that somehow he has forgotten that.

Mr. Wildman: It was a terminal promise.

Mr. Laughren: We may occasionally twit the minister, to use an appropriate word, but it really would make a lot of sense to have a food terminal in Timmins. However, the minister has conveniently forgotten about that. To be fair to him, he does have some very serious problems to which he must address himself. He cannot spend all his time worrying about silviculture and regeneration, the future of the forests and our food terminal in Timmins. He has employees in his ministry who do not agree with his policies and he has to get rid of them. In Ontario it is very time-consuming to fire a civil servant who does not agree with his boss.

What a sad commentary that is to make about a minister. It takes a very insecure minister to feel he can not absorb a forester who speaks out on what he believes to be the correct policy and who finds out, after he had been fired, that the minister not only agrees with him but implements the policy the forester recommended. It is outrageous that the forester should be fired because he dared to express an opinion. He did not reveal a civil service secret or confidential document; all he did was express his views. And for that he is fired.

In Czechoslovakia, for instance, a professional forester who does not practise proper

regeneration methods may have criminal charges laid against him. He can be taken to court for not carrying out his professional duties properly; for professional misconduct, in other words. In Ontario when a forester says, "This is the way you should do it," he is rewarded by being fired. I would hope that the professional foresters of Ontario are keeping a close eye on this matter and will come to the defence of the forester.

Mr. Martel: And some lawyers too for civil rights.

Mr. Laughren: Let us not get into the obligations of lawyers in civil liberties. I am old enough to have remembered how the lawyers of this country sat on their hands when the Prime Minister imposed the War Measures Act on the country. In my view that was a watershed of the legal profession in this country. But I will not be sidetracked into talking about that sordid piece of history, imposed on this country by a federal Liberal government and supported by the Tories, federally and provincially.

Mr. Wildman: That's it. That is an apprehended insurrection in his ministry.

Mr. Laughren: The only other thing I would close on is that on the weekend I received some phone calls at my home.

Interjection.

Mr. Laughren: A couple of those too.

They were telling me they had had a job at the Ministry of Natural Resources last summer and that this summer they were told they would not be getting a job, that the ministry had told them somebody was being referred by head office for that particular job. When I raised that matter last week in the Legislature, the Minister of Natural Resources stated quite proudly that that was true, there were referrals that would go from head office.

What he did not justify was the practice itself. He just stood up and in a bald-faced manner said, "Yes, there are political referrals for jobs in this ministry." He did not deny the figure of 500 and he seemed almost proud of the fact. I guess the Tory back-benchers like to justify their existence by being able to say to their friends, "We can get you a job in the Ministry of Natural Resources someplace in the province."

That is a reprehensible way to run the system; that is not the way to do it. If there are good local people with experience who can do the jobs, they should get first shot at them, not the hacks and flunkies the minister calls his friends. That is not who should get the jobs, but that is



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Tuesday, April 20, 1982

Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, April 20, 1982

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

VEHICLE REGISTRATION

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time this afternoon I will be introducing a bill to amend the Highway Traffic Act.

The proposed changes under this bill will permit the government to introduce a totally new motor vehicle registration system in this province. Since it represents a very fundamental change in the way the ministry conducts its business in this area, I would like to briefly outline the new system for the members of the House.

I should point out, first of all, that there are more than five million vehicles currently registered in Ontario, including cars, trucks, buses, motorcycles, mopeds and trailers. More and more come into the system each year. It is, therefore, imperative that we improve our motor vehicle registration system if we are to provide Ontario residents with fast, efficient and economical service.

The new system, scheduled to come on stream December 1, 1982, will allow us to do just that. Under it, licence plates will follow the owner, not the vehicle. In other words, owners of motor vehicles will keep their plates, transferring them to a new vehicle when the old one is scrapped or sold.

This plate-to-owner system, currently in use in the majority of US jurisdictions and the majority of Canadian provinces, will enable my ministry to provide the public, police and the courts with more reliable vehicle information. It will also eliminate the problem of former owners receiving parking tickets and summonses which should have rightfully gone to the new owners; something which too frequently occurs under our existing system when motorists fail to transfer the ownership of their vehicles properly and promptly.

We are also moving to a system of staggered renewals, which will eventually eliminate our infamous February lineups for licence-plate validation stickers. As a matter of fact, the

coming December 1, 1982, to February 28, 1983, licence renewal period will be the last time motorists will have to stand in long lines to get their stickers.

Beginning on December 1, yearly motor vehicle registrations will be based on the birth date of the registered owner. In the case of vehicles registered to a company, owners of the company will be able to select their own renewal date, or to assign several dates for a certain number of vehicles in their large fleets.

The new motor vehicle registration system will also enable us to deny a renewal of registration to motorists with outstanding parking tickets and to those who have issued NSF cheques for any vehicle-related transactions with the agent or the ministry. This will be of great assistance to Ontario's municipalities, which have had a difficult task trying to collect parking fines in the past. It is also expected to reduce the backlog in our courts.

At the same time, we intend to introduce a single registration fee for all passenger vehicles, with a lesser single fee for passenger vehicles registered in northern Ontario. We will also introduce a single fee for commercial motor vehicles under 3,000 kilograms, as well as flat fees for mopeds and motorcycles.

Finally, the new system will be precisely tied together by a new on-line computer system, permitting a broader range of services to the public at every licence issuing agent office in the province. In all, this new motor vehicle registration system represents a vast improvement in service in Ontario. I look forward to the speedy consideration and passage of this bill through the House in the weeks ahead.

DRAFT CONSTRUCTION LIEN ACT

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, in a few moments I shall be tabling the report of my advisory committee on the draft Construction Lien Act.

In November 1980, the Ministry of the Attorney General published a discussion paper on the draft Construction Lien Act in response to numerous requests from the construction industry for both major and minor amendments to the Mechanics' Lien Act. The discussion paper

contained extensive proposals intended to serve as the framework for, and to stimulate, discussions regarding reform of this law. I am pleased to say that all segments of the industry accepted my invitation to participate in the process of developing new lien legislation. The ministry received many briefs and submissions.

In May 1981, I established my advisory committee on the draft Construction Lien Act under the chairmanship of Stephen Fram of the policy development division of the ministry. The committee was composed of lawyers expert in mechanics' lien law and knowledgeable about the working of the legislation from the perspective of labour, material suppliers, subcontractors, contractors, owners and other consumers of construction improvements, commercial sureties, those who finance construction, municipalities, the crown and the courts.

I asked the committee to review the draft legislation in the discussion paper; to consider the responses the ministry had received from the construction industry; to prepare a report embodying its findings and recommendations; and to examine and approve draft legislation to implement its recommendations. I invited my advisory committee to develop its own proposals for reform, based on the experience and expertise of its members.

I believe the committee's report is a synthesis of relevant theoretical considerations as well as sound practice. It contains extensive and convincing explanations for the proposals put forward by the committee. The guiding principles underlying the report are that impediments to the flow of construction funds on a project must be minimized and there should be speedy resolution of disputes.

In transmitting the report to me the committee made me aware that it had considered and attempted to balance rights and obligations so that its proposed legislation would maximize the benefits and minimize the undesirable effects to all interests. The committee made it clear that these proposals should be considered as a package. Because the proposals are a balanced package, the committee informed me that no segment of the industry will find all that it sought in the report. However, the committee is of the view that its proposals should fairly meet the needs of all segments of the construction industry. I believe, given the diverse and often conflicting interests of those involved in the construction industry, no more can be expected. Obviously, the creation of new lien legislation will require a spirit of compromise, co-

operation and realism from all sectors of the industry.

2:10 p.m.

Before I summarize the major recommendations of the report, I would like to express my personal gratitude to the members and substitute members of my advisory committee. There are those who allege that today professionals are unwilling to make personal sacrifices for the public interest. I would like to say on this occasion that the enormous contribution in time and effort made without remuneration by these members of the legal profession is proof that dedication and voluntary public service are alive and well.

The report confirms there is a continuing need for lien legislation to protect those who have supplied services and materials to the construction or improvement of buildings. The report, while containing very significant recommendations for change, continues the approach to lien legislation developed in Ontario over the past century. For example, the concepts of the lien and trust remedies and the requirements of holdback are retained.

The report recommends the reduction of the rate of holdback from the existing 15 per cent of the price of services and materials supplied to 10 per cent. While the report states the reduction is justified on the basis of the low margins of profit in the construction industry and the high cost of financing the holdback, the report also makes it clear that the reduction should not be effected without certain other measures to ensure that hardship does not result.

The report recommends the extension of the special priority afforded to workers' lien claims for wages from the existing 30 days to 40 working days. Since as much as 30 per cent of these wages are now paid into workers' trust funds to cover vacation pay and health and welfare benefits, it is recommended that the trustees for the workers' trust funds be able to enforce payment directly on behalf of workers. To make this realistic, it is also recommended that trustees for these funds have the right to obtain access to payroll records of the employer to determine whether there are arrears in the payment to the funds.

The report recommends that the time for preserving a lien be extended from the existing 37 days to 45 days. The committee found that 37 days is too short for a potential claimant to determine adequately whether to preserve a lien, while the 60-day period proposed in the

discussion paper would delay payment of the holdback too long.

The report deals extensively with the expiry of lien rights to ensure that no legal impediment would exist to delay payment of the holdback. In this connection, the committee recommends that the concept of substantial performance introduced into lien legislation in 1969 be limited in application to the main contract, and that certification of substantial performance of the main contract be made known to the suppliers of services and materials by publication. The effect of these and other recommended changes should be greatly to speed payment of the holdback related to the substantially performed contract while providing protection for the finishing trades and their suppliers.

The report recommends that there be security for the holdbacks. Too frequently today, high interest rates on mortgages eliminate the owner's interest in a project, leaving lien claimants without any protection despite their contribution to the project and the fact that payment has been withheld from them by law. To correct this injustice, the committee recommends limited adjustments to the priorities of liens over mortgages. In the committee's view, this adjustment of priorities will accomplish, without administrative overhead and in a manner that is commercially reasonable, most of the major benefits that would have resulted from the joint trust account proposals to secure the holdback set out in the discussion paper.

The report's recommendations with respect to lien claims are designed to make the lien process more effective. At present, the act sometimes requires a prudent claimant to claim far more than the price of services or materials he has supplied. These exaggerated claims impede the proper flow of construction funds. The recommendations, if implemented, would permit a person to claim only the amount owed to him, without jeopardizing his right to claim a lien for additional services and materials he may supply.

The extensive recommendations with respect to court procedures for dealing with lien claims are designed to speed the resolution of lien actions. One of the key recommendations in this respect is that defendants be required to file a defence to a claim quickly or lose their right to defend. The present procedure is grossly defective in this respect and results in lengthy delays in what is intended to be a summary process.

The report contains a complete draft of legislation to implement the committee's rec-

ommendations. After a century of major and minor amendments to the lien legislation, there is little doubt of the necessity for a new beginning. While the complexity of the subject matter and the need for certainty of obligations do not make the draft legislation light reading, I believe major improvements have been made.

In the near future I hope to introduce legislation based on the report of my advisory committee.

ORAL QUESTIONS

VEHICLE REGISTRATION

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications with respect to his statement today. With the changes the minister introduced today, why did he not take the opportunity to introduce a special licence for the handicapped on a volunteer basis so that those people could have the privileges attached thereto with respect to parking and its monitoring to save them the embarrassment of having to try to negotiate special privileges with individual parking lot operators?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, that matter is in hand. When the new licence system is implemented, there will be a special licence available for the handicapped on their request at no additional cost to them. It will not be automatically issued to them. They will apply for the licence. I suspect one of the symbols in the licence will be the wheelchair symbol.

In discussions, I have found that some handicapped people do not want to have their vehicles identified in any way that would indicate to the public that they are handicapped. Others do request this, and it will be available to them free of charge.

Mr. Peterson: I am surprised the minister he did not include that in his statement if, indeed, it is forthcoming. Would the minister not feel at the same time he would have to bring in companion legislation, enabling legislation, for municipalities to have standard bylaws in the various municipalities so that those people could be specially treated in those circumstances?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Again, we are well ahead on the matter of a standard draft and prototype bylaw to allow municipalities to deal in a uniform way with that. Some municipalities have now passed this type of bylaw. I do not believe there are many. In consultation with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and

with the handicapped associations, we are preparing a draft prototype bylaw which we will be supplying to all municipalities so that if they wish at the municipal level to pass that bylaw, it will cover the requirement for parking spaces to be provided and also the authority to police these spaces to make sure they are reserved for the handicapped.

Mr. Samis: Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell the House why he is abandoning his policy of encouraging people to buy smaller cars consuming less gasoline? Why is he rewarding the gas guzzlers and increasing the fees of those who have bought small cars in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, we do not intend to reward anyone. Most reasonable people will understand that in the present system the number of cylinders in no way indicates the fuel efficiency of an automobile. There are many cases where the newer, more modern, small V-8 engines can very well be more fuel-efficient than a large six-cylinder or four-cylinder engine.

There are a number of reasons. The incentive to the motorist to buy a smaller, more fuel-efficient car is exemplified every time that motorist drives up to the gas pump. That is where one gets the real savings, not a few dollars once a year in a motor vehicle registration fee.

It is very important to have a uniform fee in this new system because the plate stays with the owner, who may very well be changing from a four-cylinder to a six-cylinder car or from an eight-cylinder to a four-cylinder car. From a reasonable administrative point of view, the uniform fee is necessary.

2:20 p.m.

Mr. J. A. Reed: Mr. Speaker, surely the minister knows it is a simple matter of computer logistics to build a kind of qualification into that licence fee. While we will agree that the number of cylinders does not indicate the kind of gas mileage that these cars get, surely the minister knows that the weight of the automobile is a very direct reflection. When we are doing this why does he not do the proper thing and base the amount of the licence on the weight of the automobile?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the member for Lambton (Mr. Henderson) and myself, I hope they do not rate other things on the weight of the members around here.

Hon. Mr. Davis: And the member for Niagara.

Hon. Mr. Snow: The honourable member for Kenora (Mr. Bernier) fits into that category too.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Think how much the member for Halton-Burlington would have to pay if it were on a weight basis.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, over the past years we have been developing this system and the new computer programming for the system is very complicated indeed. We did look at a number of variations as to how this should be done. We considered the possibility of a cubic content of the engine regardless of how many cylinders it had. We considered cubic content, such as whether engines were under two litres, two to three, three to four, four to five, over six and so on. That would have come up with a very complicated system and of course people would be transferring back and forward. As I say, when the plate follows the owner, we would be continually asking for additional payments or would be making refunds.

Mr. J. A. Reed: You do that with trucks now. I'd just like some common sense.

Hon. Mr. Snow: I cannot hear the member's interjection, but if he wishes to ask another supplementary I will answer it.

PHYSICIANS' SERVICES

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Health. The minister will recall on April 1, 1982, he said in this House and I quote: "I have asked the Ontario Hospital Association, along with the Ontario Council of Administrators of Teaching Hospitals, to advise me on what steps they are taking to protect the integrity and quality of care of their institutions in the event that their committee structure is disrupted. I do not believe that hospitals can ensure patient care without the participation of physicians on these committees and I do not expect many doctors can boycott them."

Is the minister aware that the OHA has received no formal request or directives from him or his ministry to report on the effect of the doctors' walkout action on hospitals? Is the minister aware that according to the executive director of the OHA, Mr. Cunningham, the OHA does not consider it to be its function to do so?

The OHA is confining its monitoring strictly to neglect of inpatient care and deficiencies in emergency services. It is keeping no data on the cancellation of surgery, failure of hospital committees to meet, or refusal of doctors to sign

patient charts. The OHA also advises its hospitals that a lot of elective surgery is not being done, some committees are not meeting and some charts are not being signed.

How does the minister reconcile these facts with his repeated assurances that he will protect patients when the OHA is not collecting this data or reporting it to him? He does not know the facts. My question is, how can he take that position when he does not know the facts? If he does know the facts, what are they?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, the Ontario Hospital Association undertook to monitor all the job action for us on April 1. I read the release the OHA put out on April 1 for the record that day and I would be pleased to read it again.

In point of fact, the OHA contacted us the middle of last week and indicated that they felt the system they had tried to put in place was not working quickly enough for the ministry's purposes since I was pressing them to provide us with information on an immediate basis. It was agreed between the Ontario Hospital Association and ourselves that we would do it directly.

Therefore, a letter has gone out from me to each hospital in the province requesting the kind of information the member has just outlined, so we can make all the accurate assessments with regard to the job action that has been taken so far and, if any referrals to the College of Physicians and Surgeons ought to result, we will be in a position to make those assessments when the information is received from those hospitals. I expect it will be received over the next week or 10 days.

I should also take this opportunity to tell the member we are in the process today of sending a telex to all hospital boards in the province to indicate that we would like them to call meetings of their boards to review the planned schedule for next week by the Ontario Medical Association, so that each and every hospital in the province can assure us it will be operating next week in a manner which meets the hospital's obligations under the Public Hospitals Act, and to ensure that all patients are adequately protected next week.

Mr. Speaker: Just before you ask a supplementary question, would the members please curtail their private conversations so we can hear the questions and answers?

Mr. Peterson: The telegram the minister has sent out today advising the hospitals they have to keep functioning next week is very interest-

ing. Would the minister kindly advise this House how hospitals can function without doctors?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I do not usually use Dr. Reese as a source but he was on the radio this afternoon and he said: "The people who are in hospital will still have rounds made on them every day by somebody. It may not be the doctor who normally looks after them, but it is the same as on the weekend or on a holiday. All emergency surgery will be done. Babies will be delivered. Broken bones will be fixed. Bleeding patients will be looked after. People with acute abdomens will be operated on. Acute psychiatric problems will be looked after"—the Leader of the Opposition can refer all those in his caucus to them—"people with high fevers and infections will be looked after."

May I simply say to the Leader of the Opposition those are the words of Dr. Reese which indicate that, contrary to the impression which came out of the OMA's press conference yesterday—and this is a problem the OMA has had on previous occasions—the extent of the job action it is threatening is somewhat more extreme than what it intends to put in place. Because of the problem of interpreting the impression—

Mr. Roy: That is what you say.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I am just comparing what Dr. Reese said yesterday to what he said today. All I am saying to the Leader of the Opposition is something very simple. As one can tell from Dr. Reese's statements today, there will be doctors in the hospitals next Tuesday and Wednesday. I am taking Dr. Reese at his word as of 12:15 p.m.

Whether there are sufficient doctors in those hospitals to ensure that patient care is not threatened in this province is precisely the reason I am sending a telex to every hospital in the province so I can ascertain what is planned for each and every one of them. Upon receipt of that information from those hospitals, which I expect to be back in my office by the end of this week, we will be able to determine whether hospitals have taken appropriate action and the extent to which each hospital feels the action taken by the doctors in that hospital leaves it somewhat short of the necessary number of doctors and services to protect patient care. That will be a great source of information to us and will allow us to act accordingly.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, does the minister feel that the two days next week when medical services will be withheld, and the three

days in May when the OMA membership will be withdrawing services from hospitals, maintains, in the language of the Health Disciplines Act, the standard of practice of medicine in this province? If he does, will he explain how? If he does not, will he tell us whether he intends to exercise his powers with respect to section 21 of regulation 448 under the Health Disciplines Act, which defines failure to maintain the standard of practice of the profession of medicine in Ontario as professional misconduct?

2:30 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I can simply assure the honourable member that all possible steps will be taken to ensure that the quality of care throughout this province is not threatened or endangered. As a result, all of the definitions in the act which put an onus on me, as minister, and this government to take appropriate steps to ensure that health care is present at all times will be put into place.

We cannot make those assessments on the basis of general statements made yesterday by the Ontario Medical Association with regard to the general strike action the doctors intend to take next Tuesday and Wednesday. We are now in the process of collecting specific information upon which we will act according to our responsibilities under the law.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, on April 1, 1982, the minister stated, "I do not believe hospitals can ensure patient care without participation by physicians on committees, and I do not expect many doctors will boycott them." The fact of the matter is that physicians are not participating on hospital committees, and the minister has not given us his assurance today that he will make sure this is done immediately.

How can we take any kind of refuge in the empty promises the minister is making in this House today when he has not followed through with the promise he made on April 1?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, we have indicated that we are assembling the information to ensure that all obligations were met by all physicians up until this day and that they will continue to be met after this day. I know the honourable member wants to put the proposition that no doctors in the province served on any committees over the last several weeks. With all due respect, that would be a quite inaccurate statement for her to make.

Ms. Copps: That is not what I said.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: That is exactly what the member said. She can read Hansard and per-

haps stand on a point of personal privilege and correct what she thought she said. In any case, so that there is no uncertainty, we are checking each and every hospital to ensure that doctors continue to meet their obligations; where they did not do so, appropriate action will be taken. I do not know what else one can expect the Minister of Health to do. We are monitoring, we are getting all the information and appropriate action will be taken.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I have a new question for the Minister of Health. When all is said and done, will the minister not admit that it is not only the responsibility of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, not only the responsibility of the Ontario Hospital Association and not only the responsibility of the doctors of this province but also the responsibility of the Minister of Health of this province to protect the patients of this province and not to punish those bodies afterwards if they fail to live up to the responsibilities.

In view of that, now that the OMA has announced a full five days of withdrawal of doctors' services, does the minister not see that as a threat to patient care in this province? Will he not accept his responsibility and take "the firm and decisive action in accordance with all of our legislative powers" that he promised this Legislature yesterday?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Again, Mr. Speaker, the honourable member is putting the proposition that if the government puts in a piece of legislation, the doctors will work next Tuesday and Wednesday, but that if we do not put in that legislation, they will not work and will risk their patients' health. In other words, the member believes that it is a greater motivation to doctors to have a piece of legislation in place than it is a motivation to doctors to look after the health and safety of their patients.

I suspect the proposition put by the member goes to the very fundamental roots of his view of the health care profession and the doctors of this province. I, for one, believe that the doctors put the health of their patients far above any piece of legislation that we might enact in terms of an inducement to stay on the job and protect the health of their patients. Until we see evidence to the contrary, we will continue to act as we have done up until the present.

The honourable member must be aware of the fact that I think doctors at some stage—and this has not become clear—have to come to grips with this very fundamental proposition between now and next Tuesday.

Last Friday, when the most recent OMA offer was put to the government, it was important to note that the OMA offer was entirely consistent, for the immediate period of time, with the offer implemented by this government on April 1. In other words, the OMA had a six-stage proposal as one it could live with.

Stage 1 of that proposal was for 11 per cent to run from April 1, 1982, until October 1, 1982, which is precisely what the government has implemented. Doctors are not being asked to take extreme action next week because the OMA disagrees with this initial adjustment of 11 per cent; the OMA now agrees with that initial adjustment.

What the doctors around this province are being asked to do, and I am not sure they have understood this completely, is to take this action next Tuesday and Wednesday which will affect their profession because they believe a further adjustment of 8.8 per cent should be made in October instead of the adjustment increase of three per cent on January 1, 1983, offered by the government.

That gap represents a lot of money to the government, let me make that quite clear—in Dr. Reese's estimate, \$39 million. I have to say—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Which question is the minister answering?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: For those who were here Monday, I will have more information. May I say—

Mr. Roy: Just answer the question.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I caution the honourable member not to do that again.

Mr. Roy: Well, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: You are not to argue with me.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: The minister has not finished his comments.

Mr. Speaker: I realize he has not. I did not cut him off in any way. I was speaking to the honourable member who was interrupting.

If you do not want to listen to the answer, you do not have to; but the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) put forward a question which I presume he wanted answered fully.

Mr. Roy: An answer; not a statement. You know he should not abuse the system.

Mr. Speaker: I will be the judge of that, not

you. I think the minister has not finished his answer.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, in order that my friend may have—

Mr. Roy: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: There is nothing out of order.

Mr. Roy: There is, Mr. Speaker. Listen to my point of order before you make a ruling on it.

Mr. Speaker: There is nothing out of order.

Mr. Roy: I want to raise a point of order. Listen to my point of order. If it is out of order, tell me.

Mr. Speaker: Go ahead.

Mr. Roy: My point is simply this: You, Mr. Speaker, have admonished members on this side for asking questions which are not supplementary, for abusing the question period. What I am saying to you very simply is that you should enforce the rules fairly on both sides. The minister is making a statement now.

Mr. Speaker: That was a very interesting speech but it was not a point of order, and I object to that.

Mr. Roy: Obviously you want to make that sort of decision.

Mr. Speaker: Obviously the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) was interested enough to want to hear the full answer.

Does the minister wish to continue?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I am making an honest attempt to provide as much information to this House as possible; I think that is important.

Mr. Roy: Well, make it by way of a statement.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I caution you, that will be the last interjection I will accept from you.

Mr. Roy: You don't accept interjections.

Mr. Speaker: You are right.

Mr. Roy: Does that apply to everyone?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: You are embarrassing your leader. He is completely embarrassed by your conduct.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: According to Dr. Reese's figures, he has acknowledged that the difference—which does not refer to the period between now and October, because the government and the OMA are in agreement on that, but for the period from October to the end of this fiscal year—is \$39 million, spread among approximately 14,000 practising physicians.

2:40 p.m.

While \$39 million is a great deal of money to this government and would be in addition to the \$23 million we offered additionally last Friday, I must say that in order for all physicians to make proper and fully informed judgements with regard to what they wish to do next Tuesday they should be aware of the fact that the OMA and the government agree on the schedule adjustment as of April 1, 1982, and that the difference for this fiscal year between the OMA position and the government position now relates to how much money is going to be paid after October 1, 1982, not after April 1, and that amount is approximately \$39 million, spread among 14,000 physicians.

When you get to after-tax dollars for those 14,000 physicians, I believe the medical profession would have to think long and hard over whether the request being made to them to take some action, which by their own admission will have a serious impact on the reputation of the medical profession, is warranted given the current situation.

Mr. Foulds: Is the minister not aware that this party believes it is not the responsibility of the Minister of Health to slip and slide in the way he has been doing? The buck stops somewhere and the buck of responsibility for the protection of patients stops with the Minister of Health. Does he not consider it his duty and responsibility to prevent occurrences such as happened in the case of Mildred Lloyd whose entry to intensive care in Scarborough was delayed because she was not able to see her doctor as a result of a one-day closing of the office?

Does the minister not think the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario needs guidelines and regulations from him which would classify concerted action by the OMA as professional misconduct, as serious as reduction of a bill for prompt payment by a patient, which is currently considered professional misconduct?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: It is precisely because the buck does stop here that the government, in responding at various stages during these negotiations, has to be a lot more careful and considered in its responses and its public utterances than those who do not have the responsibility of ultimately making these decisions.

I acknowledge immediately that the members opposite have a lot more freedom and a lot less responsibility in terms of this matter, as they acknowledge, than we do. They are entitled to exercise that freedom, to take extreme positions and to put pressure on the government. Indeed, they have done that.

The buck does stop here; the honourable member is quite right. As Minister of Health, I am prepared to say that I will live up to my responsibilities under the legislation. I am also aware of the fact that ultimately reaching an agreement with the profession, which is in the best interests of both the taxpayers and those same taxpayers as patients, is my ultimate goal. To do that, obviously I have to handle the government's position in a way somewhat different from the way that the members opposite can and are able to discharge their responsibilities. I have never made any mistake about that, nor have I hidden that fact.

I know there are options open to us. I am well aware of those options. But the member knows and I know that when the Minister of Health outlines what those options are, immediately it is translated throughout the province to many physicians, with whom I hope this government can have an ongoing relationship and with whom I hope we can ultimately achieve agreement. When that is translated out there, it will become a situation where the Minister of Health is threatening A, B, C and D.

The reason I have chosen not even to outline those options is, as I have indicated—

Mr. Foulds: Because you don't have any.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: It is not because they are not available; my friend knows what those options are, as do many members of this House, and I do not have to spell them out.

Ultimately, I do understand three things. First, the buck does stop here; I am held responsible for protecting patient care, and I accept that responsibility. Second, that responsibility fundamentally lies with the medical profession; I believe that the medical profession are so honourable and so dedicated to the health of their patients that they will ensure that their patients' health is not threatened.

After all, the Attorney General has a long sequence of laws in place that prohibits a great number of things, but that does not stop those who see fit to break those laws from breaking them. Let us not put any special aura over a piece of legislation, for those who wish to test the system break legislation. Ultimately, I think doctors would be a lot more hesitant to threaten the health of their patients than to break the particular law.

Third, let us understand that while I am concerned and have asked the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario to review with us and satisfy us on the procedure they are going to follow with regard to any of the cases we have

referred to them, to the present time they have acted expeditiously on the 36 or 37 cases we have referred to them and have met fully all of their responsibilities under the legislation.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, you are a very reasonable person. I say to the minister, whose reasonableness should be echoed in this chamber with background music, he may be fooling some of the people but he is not fooling us on this side here. Understanding that his leadership aspirations are riding on this issue and that what he is waiting for is public opinion—and probably he is polling, if not by day then hourly on this issue—does he not understand that the issue here is not so much his leadership aspirations or public opinion but the integrity of the system?

Given the fact that he, as Minister of Health, is supposed to take care of the integrity of the system, and given the fact that his predictions most often have been wrong, how can he say that a five-day work stoppage will not affect the integrity of the health system? When is he going to accept his responsibility as Minister of Health?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Did you really want an answer?

Mr. Roy: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, so as not to abuse the privileges of the House and not to use up the time of question period, I will not repeat the answer to a question that was asked of me in the member's absence last Monday, the Friday before that, and on several other occasions, because that is a side question.

Mr. Foulds: Can the minister tell us why the full initiative he has taken has been a sloughing-off of responsibility to other organizations in the province such as the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario? Why will he not take the initiative and why will he not provide orders in council that would give him authority to deal with transgressions and with professional misconduct?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The acting leader of the third party is free to bring legislation or private bills into this House suggesting that the College of Physicians and Surgeons no longer be appointed as the disciplinary body with lay members on it to police and govern the medical profession. The honourable member has been free to do that for very many years. I do not know, quite frankly, whether he has introduced any of that. I suspect he has not.

In view of the fact that yesterday he shed his party's policy, as Mr. Rae fell out of the gallery when he heard what the former leader's position

had been, the member may tomorrow want to introduce legislation changing the procedures that this assembly, duly and democratically elected, has agreed upon for more than 100 years, as I recall. His party has been here for a lot of those 100 and some years—too many of them—and he is free to introduce later this week a private member's bill suggesting that the college no longer be the body authorized to exercise this discipline.

As Minister of Health, I must say that I refer to the body authorized by this Legislature to be the body to exercise discipline in all cases that require discipline. To do otherwise would be to flout the legislation passed by all members of this assembly.

2:50 p.m.

Mr. Martel: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: The minister makes reference to my leader. I draw this to the Speaker's attention, because there is a slight dilemma. None other than the Premier (Mr. Davis) stated categorically one year ago to a large audience in Sudbury that doctors could not strike. How does that rest with the Minister of Health?

Mr. Kerrio: That's a new question.

Mr. Martel: The minister had better find out what the Premier's position is before he shoots off his mouth.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

SUNCOR PROCUREMENT POLICY

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy about Suncor's dealings with a firm in Ontario called Fahramet, a casting firm located in Orillia which lost a contract for centrifugal castings to a West German company. The order was worth \$1.3 million and was let by Suncor for work on its Fort McMurray oil sands operation.

Can the minister explain why Ontario's three directors on Suncor did not see it as part of their responsibility to get the May 1 deadline either phased in or postponed? Will they not see it as their responsibility in future to insist that Suncor tender such contracts early enough so that small companies such as Fahramet will have time to supply the contract and thus create jobs in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, the member for Simcoe East (Mr. McLean) was quick in drawing this to my attention yesterday. He was on the job, was in touch with Suncor and received the following information from the company in connection with the matter to

which the acting leader of the third party makes reference.

The parts referred to are replacement tubes for the hydrogen reforming furnace which was destroyed in the January fire. The order was for 344 units at a price of \$1.3 million. The member for Simcoe East was advised that only about five companies in the world produce the tubes and Suncor contacted three of them in March, the company to which the honourable member makes reference being the Canadian one. The others were a United States firm and a German firm. They were all contacted at the same time.

All three companies got a one-day notice, I am advised, because delivery on the parts was critical and only the German firm could meet the delivery requirements. That firm's price was 20 per cent less than that of the competition; that is, the price as delivered to the plant. The claim to which the member also makes some reference, that their price was only 10 per cent higher, was based only on materials. As noted, the differential was 20 per cent. Under those circumstances, I assume that is the information the member wants.

Mr. Foulds: What I want to know is why the minister does not consider it a matter of policy. In Ontario's submission to the first ministers' conference, it argued for a Canadian procurement program "that would play an active role in efforts to change procurement practices that limit the ability of Canadian suppliers to land orders in capital projects."

If that is the government's policy, why do its Suncor directors not try to make that a matter of policy for Suncor, and what benefit do we have from the purchase of our share of Suncor if the government cannot even land jobs for the people of Ontario through that firm and its procurement policy?

Hon. Mr. Welch: The benefits of the involvement of the people of Ontario in Suncor have been listed in this House on many occasions and, indeed, how important it is that we be—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I simply direct the attention of the member to the speeches that have been made in this House which list these benefits and which will read very well in so far as the development of the energy policy of this country is concerned.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, is it not apparent to the minister that the whole Suncor thing is the biggest embarrassment, both financially and

politically, his government has ever walked into? Now the member for Cambridge (Mr. Barlow) wants the minister out of it, in addition to the member for Leeds (Mr. Runciman). All the back-benchers are embarrassed by what he has done, as well as the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) and half the cabinet.

When the Minister of Health (Mr. Grossman) stands up in this House and cries about \$20 million or \$30 million, saying it is a great amount of money, and the Minister of Energy (Mr. Welch) dissipated \$650 million on that purchase, which will return nothing to the province, why does he not heed the call of intelligent people everywhere, sell Suncor and use the money properly here in this province?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, it is really—
Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am not sure whether the honourable members really want an answer; but if they do, I ask them to please settle down and be quiet so the minister may be heard.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, it is a very sad sight to sit here and watch the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson), like his predecessor, continue to tie a political noose around his neck on this issue. I hardly need to remind the Leader of the Opposition of the cogent reasons that have been shared with members of this House on several occasions with respect to this very sound energy investment. We are proud to be part of the catalytic approach to the Canadianization of this very important industry, and history will treat that decision extremely well.

Mr. Foulds: I would like to ask the Minister of Energy how all his rhetoric will help the 120 employees at Fahramet who have been laid off.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I do not see any connection between that supplementary and the main question. The acting leader of the third party quite properly has asked a question about 24 hours after our member raised the same question with us with respect to this contract. I provided him with the information and I assume, under the circumstances, that the management of that company has made a decision based on all those particular factors about which I shared the information.

CHILDREN'S GROUP HOME

Mr. J. A. Reed: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Drea), I will address this question to the Provincial Secretary for Social Development.

Will the minister investigate the tragic case of 16-year-old Brad General, a young man under the guardianship of Ontario, who on February 8, 1982, was removed by force from D and G Group Home in Acton and taken to a group home in Hamilton? Will the minister find out why, after Brad was taken at his request to Milton by the people who run the new group home, they dropped him off on February 12 and he was not again given shelter by the province until March 29 of this year when he was arrested and jailed?

Why was he removed from D and G Group Home in the first place, a home where he had apparently established a healthy relationship with the staff? Is it standard procedure for the official guardian to prevent the natural building of emotional security that is part of any normal home life?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of that particular situation, but I certainly will immediately ask for more information and will share it with the honourable member.

3 p.m.

Mr. J. A. Reed: When the minister ascertains the facts regarding this, would she tell us if the removal by force of Brad General was standard procedure? Will the minister then investigate the wisdom of such procedure? If it was not standard procedure, will she take steps to prevent any such recurrence and will she report her findings to this Legislature?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: With no knowledge of that particular action, I do not think it would be very responsible for me to make any comment at this moment, other than to assure the member that we will look into it immediately and I will make the House aware of the situation.

LIVESTOCK DEPREDACTIONS BY RAVENS

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Agriculture and Food. Is the minister aware of the rather bizarre developments in northwestern Ontario and neighbouring areas of Manitoba where ravens are picking out the eyes and the rectums of cattle so that they bleed to death?

Quite apart from the fact that it looks as though Edgar Allan Poe and Alfred Hitchcock are combining to impose the ingredients of a classic horror film upon us here from the great beyond, will the minister indicate what conclusion his field staff and his research department, individually or together, have come to with regard to this development? Will the minister

indicate whether it is the intention of the government to revise the current legislation to add ravens to the predators for which farmers can get compensation when livestock and/or poultry are killed?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, the member for Kenora (Mr. Bernier) drew this to my attention within the last 10 days.

Mr. Sargent: What about the cow-calf program?

Mr. Speaker: Just proceed with the answer, please.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: About the same time our agricultural representative had sent in his monthly report indicating that this was a local issue. I have asked ministry staff to pursue the matter further. I have not yet had a report from them on the extent of the problem or whether they agree or not that ravens are involved so they can substantiate the reports to date. I did see a report in the press this morning or yesterday morning indicating a similar report in Manitoba. Once I have the report back from my staff, I will be glad to share it with the House.

Mr. MacDonald: If it is confirmed that ravens are the predators, as the evidence seems to suggest, will the minister consider my suggestion that he amend the existing legislation to add ravens to those predators for which farmers can get compensation for the loss of cattle or poultry?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: That request has been made of the ministry by one farmer. Once I have a report from staff to indicate whether or not the claims can be substantiated, then we will have to consider that along with other options.

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had occasion to speak to a couple of students from the University of Western Ontario who are residents of northern Ontario. Considering this problem, they wondered if one of the government ministries might devote some time and energy through a summer program, which would help to employ some students in the far north who are looking for employment, and find out to what extent this really is a problem.

Will the minister speak to the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope) or to the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier) with a view to extending some investigation into this serious problem?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Yes. This issue has only been raised within the last week or 10 days and I have asked for reports from staff. I am prepared

to consider any reasonable suggestions to address the problem, once we know the extent of it.

WINDSOR CHRONIC CARE FACILITY

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Health (Mr. Grossman), I will place my question to the Provincial Secretary for Social Development, who is always so concerned about the welfare of citizens throughout the province.

I would like to ask her about the 11-year-old promise of a chronic care bed facility in our hospital in Windsor. The minister will be aware it was back in 1971 that final approval was given to a 296-bed chronic care facility in that city. She will further be aware that 11 years later the shortage is such that acute treatment beds are regularly taken by chronic patients with the effect that in Metropolitan General Hospital up to 28 patients have been forced to lie in beds in emergency rooms or in hospital corridors at one time. Dr. Robson, the chief of staff at that hospital, says some patients have spent as long as three days in a hospital corridor waiting for a bed.

When is the government going to stop all the talk and come up with the money to build a facility that is 11 years overdue? Why is the Ministry of Health still talking with local officials about a project whose need has been identified for more than a decade?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of those specifics. I am sure the Minister of Health is very much aware and has had a report from the local health council. Perhaps he will respond to that question as he is now entering the House.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, since the minister has just come back into the House, perhaps I could very briefly put the question to him. Would that be acceptable?

Mr. Speaker: If the Provincial Secretary for Social Development wishes to redirect it, and she does.

Mr. Speaker: Did the minister hear the answer or the question?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I did not even hear the question, let alone the answer.

Mr. Speaker: Would the member state the question briefly.

Mr. Wrye: When is the government going to stop the 11-year-old discussion and come up

with the money to build the chronic care facility that is so overdue in the city of Windsor?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I have it here somewhere as I thought the member might be asking that question.

Mr. McClellan: It's filed under "B" for broken promises.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: A very short list of broken promises.

I might say to the honourable member that if he would like to give us a 20-minute advance notice that he wanted to discuss the hospital situation in any given community, it would be very easy for us to have a complete discussion in this assembly.

On the chronic care situation in Windsor, I am told that at present Metropolitan General Hospital has 116 chronic care beds staffed and in operation. The ministry approved 100 additional nursing home beds last year for the Windsor area. Ten of those beds are already in place, 41 will be in operation later this spring as will another 49 this fall. These new beds will help alleviate part of the situation to which the member is referring.

I want to say also that, having looked over this situation, he will know there is a placement co-ordination service in place in Windsor which is helping to alleviate the problem. As he knows, though he neglected to point out in his question—at least as he phrased it to me; I do not know about to my colleague—the chronic home care program has been in operation in Windsor for about two years. The chronic home care program is something that very many municipalities are hoping to get this year, and I hope to be able to provide for many communities. As he knows, that does alleviate a lot of the pressure on chronic care beds.

The member will also be interested to know that the hospitals in his area, Windsor, have more acute and chronic care beds than the provincial average. Windsor hospitals have 98 beds above the provincial guidelines for chronic care beds. I did not hear all of his premise relating to broken promises, but if one looks at the Windsor area, it is above the provincial average in chronic care beds. It has a chronic home care program which very many areas do not have and is above the provincial average in terms of acute beds as well. All in all, it is fairly well serviced in terms of chronic care facilities.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, could the minister tell us why even the least expensive capital projects are being delayed for years on end? Specifically, could he tell us why no action has been taken to establish a satellite service of the regional children's centre in the town of Leamington? I am sure the minister is aware that this proposal is now eight years old and was given approval in principle back in 1975.

3:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I am sure that is supplementary only to the extent that the member is from an area close to that of the previous questioner. I will look into the facts relating to the facility in Leamington and will report back to the House.

Mr. Cooke: I wonder whether the Minister of Health would simply answer the question asked by the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye). He said that the district health council has recommended that a new chronic care hospital be built on the grounds of Windsor Western Hospital Centre and asked when the minister is going to approve the funds to build that hospital.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Obviously we will be looking at that district health council report, as we shall be doing with respect to many other communities represented on the member's benches as well as mine, with a view to determining what is a proper allocation of funds over the next several years. We shall be taking that into consideration. When those decisions are made, the member may not be the first to know but he will be notified.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Martel: I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Can he indicate if Wilco Canada has met the deadline of April 16 set by the ministry to meet the standards under the lead regulation and has undertaken the lead assessment required under the regulation? Would he inform me whether Wilco Canada has implemented a lead control program at Wilco Canada?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier in the House, as a result of comprehensive orders issued on February 24, another inspection of that particular industry was to be held Friday, April 16. This has been done. A thorough inspection of hygiene and an air quality assessment was undertaken by my ministry's occupational health and safety branch.

We asked the director of the branch to accompany the usual inspector. Although there

was a significant move by Wilco towards complying with the orders relating to assessment and lead control programs, the inspector and the director found that the company was still in default of the regulation requiring implementation of a medical surveillance program. Therefore, orders were issued to stop work on the afternoon of April 16 at 4 p.m. This action had a direct effect on 30 employees and possibly an indirect effect on some of the other employees.

The company had scheduled a shift for Friday evening and two shifts for Saturday. Those shifts were cancelled. A portion of a shift was also cancelled yesterday morning before the appointment by the company of a physician, who has discussed the regulatory requirements with ministerial medical staff. As a result of the compliance by the company with respect to the medical surveillance program, the stop order was withdrawn.

Mr. Martel: Since 1978 or 1979 this company has failed to meet the lead regulations or to establish a health and safety committee. It attempted to intimidate the workers by its threatening letter of December 16. Workers were told that they must return to work; otherwise they would lose their jobs and would not be entitled to unemployment insurance benefits or welfare if they quit, even though in some cases the workers had been ordered by their doctors not to return to work. Does the minister not feel that charges should be laid against Wilco Canada in view of these offences?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: In fairness to the owner, the orders that were issued on February 24 had a three-month deadline that would have expired on May 24 and the owner voluntarily set a date of April 16. When my people went in there last Friday, I felt that they had taken significant action.

It gives me no pleasure or comfort to issue a stop work order, especially in these difficult economic times. It means that approximately 30 people will have a reduced paycheque, and that does not excite me at all. If I have to err in a matter like this, I should like it to be on the side of safety in the work place, and that is what I felt I was doing on Friday.

I would like to tell the honourable member opposite that the investigation is still active and a review of the work place to determine compliance with the lead regulation is being undertaken by a ministry hygienist. I would also like to indicate to him that I have arranged for a personal meeting with the owner of the compa-

ny, which will be held in my office a week from this Thursday, to go over the whole chronological list of events.

Mr. Wrye: I would like to get back to the question my friend the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) asked and which the minister did not answer. Particularly in view of the attempts at intimidation of the workers in this occupational area, why were no charges laid and what will it take for this ministry to lay charges?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I am sorry if I gave the honourable member an incorrect impression. When I stated that the investigation is still active, I thought I was responding to that question, and also when I stated that the gentleman will be coming into my office a week from Thursday and that a review of the work place is being undertaken by a ministry hygienist. The investigation of this plant is not closed by any stretch of the imagination.

On Friday a stop work order was issued in the interests of bringing this thing to a head, and that is what we are attempting to do at this time. There could well be further action taken, but I am certainly not going to promise anything at all until we have gone through all of these steps. Please bear in mind that we are working on a speeded-up timetable. The plant had until May 24 and we speeded it up until this past Friday. For that reason, I think the plant is entitled to this further schedule of events.

MUNICIPAL REASSESSMENTS

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: On March 17 I placed a question on the Order Paper addressed to the Ministry of Revenue and on March 30 there was an answer that there was no answer available. At that time it was suggested that I was going to get a reply to my question by about April 15. This is April 20 and still there is no answer. I wonder if you could advise me, Mr. Speaker, when I might be able to get an answer to this important question.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure the minister will have taken note of your inquiry and will respond at the appropriate time. It seems he has an answer now.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Speaker, either the answer has been tabled or will be tabled in a few moments. As you know, the minister himself does not ordinarily table an answer directly; it is usually put through the House leader and he has it.

Mr. Epp: When there was no answer, the minister communicated with me directly to say there was no answer. That was back on March 30. I think he could communicate directly with me today to tell me when he is going to give me an answer.

Mr. Speaker: The answer to question 14 is here today and will be tabled.

USE OF TIME IN QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I wish to draw to your attention the length of ministerial answers to questions during question period. I know we have done this on many occasions but it happened again today. Today the four questions from the two opposition leaders took approximately 42 minutes, I believe. The first question from the leader of the third party—and I certainly agree that this was an important matter—took some 12 or 13 minutes alone, much of that time taken by the answers provided by the Minister of Health.

I just wonder if you might outline why it would not be more appropriate, as my friend the member for Ottawa East (Mr. Roy), has suggested, to deal with these matters, especially the kind of detail as to the government's offer, in a ministerial statement under section 26 of the standing orders regarding ministry action, rather than have ministers give this kind of detail within answers. It simply cuts down on the number of questions.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, to make a brief comment on the same point, I think we will all recall that in the middle of his answer to my latest question the minister went into a long digression about the cost of the settlement, which had not been in the original question or any of the supplementaries. I think the point of my colleague the member for Windsor-Sandwich is well taken and we appeal to you to confine the answers as you so ably confined the questions.

3:20 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: That is an interesting point and it has been brought up before. However, I think the urgent public concern and the importance of the topic at this time also has to be given some weight. Obviously, not all the members thought the answer was lengthy. The member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) stood up and appealed for the minister to continue. I keep track of the time the answers take, but I think when we are dealing with something of such importance as this topic, maybe we should devote a bit more time to it.

Something else should be kept in mind. I have pointed this out and I am not pointing the finger at anybody, but a multiple question will take a more lengthy response than a one-topic question.

Having regard for the importance of the topic, I think everything was in order. I do not really see that anything was out of order. To say a ministerial statement should have been made is to refer to something we really do not know, nor does anybody else, until the question has been asked.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I thought it became patently obvious, both under questioning by the leader of the Liberal Party and under my own questioning, that the minister should have made a statement. Surely, when that is obvious, it is entirely within your power to do one of two things, either call the minister to order because he is straying beyond the strict bounds of the question or add time to question period so that back-bench members can get in their legitimate concerns.

Mr. Speaker: I can only repeat the importance and the great interest everybody has shown, plus the fact the member for Riverdale did appeal that the minister be allowed to continue.

NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to standing order 28, the member for Welland-Thorald (Mr. Swart) has given notice of his dissatisfaction with the answer to his question given by the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Ashe) concerning urea formaldehyde foam insulation. This matter will be debated at 10:30 p.m.

Mr. Riddell: I can hardly wait.

Mr. Bradley: I can hardly wait.

Mr. Speaker: I think you can.

Mr. Bradley: I will be here for that.

Mr. Speaker: I will be looking for you.

PETITION

SUNDAY OPENING

Mr. Robinson: Mr. Speaker, I wish to submit a petition signed by some 47 furniture and appliance store owners in Scarborough and surrounding areas, requesting amendments to or further consideration of the Retail Business Holidays Act in Ontario such that the issue of Sunday opening may again be addressed. The petition seeks that the matters of uniformity of

enforcement and a reconsideration of the act to allow the Sunday opening of such establishments receive urgent attention in light of difficult economic times which would make it more attractive to flout the law at this time.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

HIGHWAY TRAFFIC AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Snow moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Wells, first reading of Bill 84, An Act to amend the Highway Traffic Act.

Motion agreed to.

POLLING PLACES ACT

Mr. Philip moved, seconded by Mr. Cassidy, first reading of Bill 85, An Act respecting the Establishment of Polling Stations in Residential Buildings.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to require that a polling station for a provincial election be provided in all residential premises in which more than 250 voters reside. The bill also requires that every landlord of residential premises in which more than 250 voters reside must make the premises available for such a polling place during a provincial election.

FUEL PRICE DISPLAY ACT

Mr. Samis moved, seconded by Mr. Di Santo, first reading of Bill 86, An Act respecting the Display of Service Station Fuel Prices.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Samis: Mr. Speaker, you will note that this bill is seconded by my cosmopolitan, conservation-minded colleague from Downsview.

Mr. Roy: There is a contradiction in terms.

Mr. Samis: This bill provides that where the operator of a service station posts a sign displaying fuel prices to motorists, the price of every kind or grade of fuel for sale at that station must be shown. May I add that I have persuaded my colleague from Downsview not to rise on a point of privilege.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE PAPER

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I am tabling the answers to questions 14, 19, 20, 22, 23, 52, 72, 74 and 75, and the interim answers to questions 24, 25 and 26 on the Notice Paper (see Hansard for Friday, April 23).

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

(concluded)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, in calling the first order, I would like to indicate to the House that it has been agreed that the time will be split among the three parties. We would ask if the table could keep track of the times, to be split equally, with the vote on the motion and amendments to be called at 5:45 p.m.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, I would like to spend a few minutes this afternoon talking about the economic problems we are facing in this province right now.

I would like to begin by talking about a couple who live in my riding. Their names are Don and Debbie McMinn. They live on Tourangeau Road in my riding. They have two children: Jody, 8, and Mandy, 8 months. Within the next week this family will lose its home. Canada Permanent, which now holds their mortgage, has taken power of sale of this home. The family bought the house on February 1, 1981. They put \$10,000 as a down payment on a \$49,000 home. The mortgage rate at the time was 14 per cent and they had a one-year mortgage.

In December, Mr. McMinn was laid off. He is an auto worker in the city. They fell behind starting in December. They applied for federal assistance when their mortgage was to come up for renewal, since Mr. McMinn had been called back to work and does have 14 years' seniority at Chrysler Corp. It appeared that he would have a job for a lengthy period of time since the demand for some of the cars we are now producing in Windsor has increased.

However, they found that with the interest rate increase and since Mr. McMinn had taken wage concessions at Chrysler when they were in financial problems, there was no way they could afford the monthly payments at a mortgage rate now running at 19 per cent.

As I say, they applied for the federal program but they found, because they had missed payments in December and January, they did not qualify for it. Now they are faced with the fact that they have put \$10,000 into a home and real estate prices have collapsed. They have no

equity in their home whatsoever and they are going to lose it in a matter of days.

3:30 p.m.

In the case of another couple in my riding, Larry and Judy Bondy who live at 1923 Francois, their mortgage came up for renewal on April 1, 1982. Their payments are now \$559 per month on a \$37,000 mortgage. Mr. Bondy is also a Chrysler worker and, therefore, has also taken wage concessions and his cost of living allowance has been eliminated as well.

There is a small contractor in Harrow in the riding of Essex South whose name is Rulic and he had his business for 19 years. It was a small contracting firm with 10 employees and it used to use subcontractors. It had a loan for \$33,000 and the interest rates went as high as 25 per cent. It declared bankruptcy on November 1, 1981, and now, through other legal problems that are being pursued by the owner of the loan at that time, that contractor may even lose his personal home.

There is also a motel in the Niagara Peninsula, the Terrace Motel Court. The owners are Mr. and Mrs. Olab. Last year they grossed \$60,000 and right now they are paying \$3,000 a month in interest payments alone.

The fact is that people all across this province, whether they are small businessmen, home owners or farmers, are losing their properties because the federal government has allowed high interest rates to increase and because this government has taken the attitude that, rather than show economic leadership, it has decided to pass the buck to the federal government and show no leadership whatsoever.

Now we are in the situation where, in communities such as St. Catharines and in my home community, the labour councils have taken the position that if the government will not act to protect the people of this province they will act on the people's behalf. We have a group set up now in both those communities, so that if someone is going to lose his or her home the so-called flying squad will go to that house and occupy it and prevent the sheriff or whoever from taking possession of it.

I for one feel, and I think my caucus members agree, that in the absence of any government leadership at all, we support this kind of action on the part of labour councils in this province. If this government cannot see fit to put in the kinds of programs that have been proposed by small business groups and home owners groups and by this political party, if it cannot show that kind of political leadership, if instead it decides

in a throne speech to devote two thirds of that speech to bashing the federal government instead of proposing positive programs, then I believe people have to take these kinds of actions on their own. It has been proven to them that government is no longer interested in protecting the ordinary middle-income and low-income family.

We should be able to rely on government but the Premier (Mr. Davis) and his government have become complacent. They have become arrogant and they have become very distant from the people of this province. They are obviously tuned out of the problems of most of the people in this province. I offer my wholehearted support to the flying squads that exist in both St. Catharines and Windsor to protect home owners. I hope they go all across this province. This government will have to accept any of the consequences that follow from those actions that people have been forced to take.

Let us take a look at some of the communities and some of the problems existing. In Cambridge, unemployment in February 1981 was 4,316, and in 1982 it was up 29 per cent to 5,560. We have had plant closures at Millhaven Fibres, which was closed on May 29, 1981, and which had 270 employees. We all know about the Canadian Admiral case. It has closed in Cambridge. There are layoffs at Braemore Furniture, Croyden Furniture Systems, Cambridge Brass, Butler Metal Products. All of those plants have laid off significant numbers of workers in the last few months. Right now 950 people are receiving welfare in the city of Cambridge.

In Chatham, unemployment was up 20 per cent in February 1982 over February 1981. Companies like Canadian Fram, Dover, Eaton Yale, Rockwell International and Motor Wheel have all had significant layoffs in the last year. Welfare is up 41 per cent in the city of Chatham. I am disappointed that once again the member for Chatham-Kent (Mr. Watson), who is here so rarely and has never participated in any of the emergency debates on unemployment or the auto industry, is not here today. He is typical of his government and its lack of involvement in this crisis.

In Smiths Falls, unemployment was up 39.1 per cent in February 1982 over February 1981. There were layoffs at Croydon Furniture Systems, at Atco Controls, at Miner Rubber and at Air-Care. Welfare was up 25 per cent in February 1982 over February 1981.

Other communities are experiencing the same problem. In the county of Brant, welfare pay-

ments were 8.09 per cent as a percentage of the municipal budget in 1979. In 1982, they are up to 13.64 per cent. In the county of Elgin, welfare payments as a percentage of the municipal budget were 6.5 per cent in 1979. In 1982, they are up to 9.2 per cent. In the county of Oxford, welfare payments in 1979 were 14.8 per cent of the municipal budget and, in 1982, 17.8 per cent.

In my home community in 1979, 8.06 per cent of the municipal budget went towards welfare and in 1982 it is up to nearly 17 per cent of the municipal budget. As the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) and the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) stated during the throne speech debate, Great Lakes Woodlands Division has laid off 1,600 in the north; Abitibi is laying off 400; MacMillan-Bloedel, 200; Boise Cascade, 775; Umex mines, 160; Abitibi in White River, 180.

The fact of the matter is unemployment in Ontario continues to increase and this government has indicated it is unwilling, does not have the imagination, does not have the programs or perhaps does not have the will any more to put programs in place to create jobs for the nearly 600,000 people who are currently unemployed in this province.

I say 600,000 because Statistics Canada indicates clearly that when one takes into consideration those people who have given up because of the lack of any opportunities for jobs in this province, the total figure is really 600,000 people unemployed. Unemployment among women is now up to nine per cent and among the youth of this province it is now nearly 18 per cent.

The costs of unemployment are rather shocking. In one year in the city of Windsor unemployment insurance costs look as if they are going to run to about \$200 million and welfare to \$15 million. In Oshawa, unemployment insurance could reach \$100 million in costs and lost wages could reach \$300 million.

When one combines the two cities of Oshawa and Windsor for lost wages, taking the total lost wages minus what they are getting through public payments, we are talking about well over \$200 million of lost wages for those two communities, lost money to the economy and therefore a lost demand for products. The spinning continues so that more and more jobs are lost.

What has this government's response been since it was re-elected? We had the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program, which I have always said was a political document and certainly not an economic document. In the auto industry, an auto parts

technology centre was announced. It was originally promised to Chatham and the entire Niagara Peninsula; then the election was called and it was also promised to the city of Windsor. In effect, it was promised to almost all of southwestern Ontario and all of the Niagara Peninsula. If that is not an election gimmick, I do not know what is.

We still have no comprehensive mandate as to what that auto parts technology centre is going to do and the location of the centre was announced only in February of this year. That was the entire response to the crisis that exists in the auto industry, which is located about 95 per cent in this province. No other initiatives were taken by this government whatsoever.

BILD says on page three: "New jobs must continue to be created to meet the challenges of technological and structural changes in the economy. In particular, there has to be new emphasis on training in skilled trades." What that translates to in the last year is a demand for the weakening of FIRA and cutbacks in community colleges.

3:40 p.m.

In food processing, in the BILD program it states, "To stimulate the necessary capital expansion in products, such as canned peaches, tomato paste, specialty meat products and other imported food products, Ontario is prepared to co-invest in new enterprises." Translated, that means we will give grants to large multinationals such as Heinz—\$6 million—to bribe them to force them to do what they should be doing on their own.

On mining machinery, the BILD program says, "The province is prepared to make direct equity investments in existing machinery companies to aid new companies to establish and to encourage resource companies to invest in creating a more vigorous resource machinery industry." Translated, that means set up a committee in Sudbury to study a problem we have known has existed for years.

The fact is, 15 years ago we imported about 50 per cent of our mining machinery in this country. Now we import 75 per cent and in 1980 the deficit was \$1.5 billion.

In reforestation, how can this political party or the people of the province take this government seriously when it talks about reforestation when in 1977 this Premier (Mr. Davis) promised to plant two trees for every one which was cut down? Now they say it is still a problem, yet in 1981 they promised forest management agreements. BILD was 99 per cent a political docu-

ment and it had virtually no substance whatsoever.

I want to turn to the speech the Premier made last week in New York, because I think some of the quotes I want to use from it will show how wishy-washy this government is and how it lacks any kind of direction or substance when it is talking about an industrial strategy. I quote:

"We in Ontario have always welcomed foreign capital that is accompanied with a resolve to advance the economy of our nation, but as I have said, we are also concerned that this investment be of maximum value domestically, that every dollar, no matter what its source, contribute as fully as possible to our economic recovery."

He goes on: "Unfortunately, this has not always been the case. A significant number of foreign-controlled Canadian businesses have in the past often been restricted to servicing the Canadian market, discouraged from undertaking any research and development programs, or reasonable measures of independence in decision-making or technological innovation. Some foreign-controlled firms in Canada have tended to source their requirements of goods and services from their own countries even when such goods and services are available in Canada at competitive prices."

We have no difference of opinion if that is what the Premier really believes. We have been saying that for years. However, the Premier goes on to say the following:

"Nevertheless, as a provincial government, we in Ontario are concerned about the implementation of this screening process"—and he is referring to FIRA—"by our federal government. Tensions can and do arise when decisions concerning investment are screened out or even diverted by our centralized bureaucracy. As such, we have suggested that the very desirable goal of increased Canadian ownership must not undermine other economic measures designed to foster investor confidence."

Add to that comment the comments made in the throne speech that FIRA must be streamlined, and the comments made in the London Free Press by the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. Walker), where he said, "New investment should not be screened by FIRA; only takeovers should be screened." Based on the White Farm issue, we know how the government stands on even takeovers within this province.

Clearly, by looking at the Premier's comments in New York, by listening to what the

throne speech says, and by what the industry minister says, no one in this province could possibly understand what this government's strategy is with respect to foreign investment. But the facts speak for themselves.

A recent study by Statistics Canada states, "The results support one of the themes of earlier studies that foreign direct investment involves a relatively high amount of purchases from home countries." The study they conducted covered 90 per cent of all Canadian imports in 1978, or \$43.7 billion worth of imports. The results showed the following:

1. Foreign-controlled firms accounted for 72 per cent of our imports.

2. US-controlled firms accounted for 80 per cent of the total foreign-controlled portion of the imports.

3. US-controlled companies source 87 per cent of their imports in their home country, the United States.

Foreign companies' ratio of imports to sales was 22.4 per cent, which is almost five times that of domestically owned companies here in this province. The result of that kind of structural problem in our economy is clear. This country imports \$236 million worth of nuts and bolts. We import \$1.5 billion worth of mining machinery. We import \$119 million worth of power tools, and we are all aware of the problems and the deficits that exist in other sectors as well as in the auto industry.

Summarizing the problems, in the short term we have a very serious problem with high unemployment. We have an incredibly difficult problem with high interest rates which is resulting in more jobs being lost, people losing their homes, communities being devastated and small businesses and farmers losing their businesses as well.

In the long term we have to come to grips with the huge trade deficits that exist in the manufacturing sector, we have to have a strategy to overcome the problem of foreign control and we have to develop a program to deal with the large number of branch plant closures which have occurred and which will continue to occur.

I want to spend a few minutes talking about my party's position on these matters. For quite some time, this party has advocated that a community adjustment fund must be set up in the short term. This fund would provide assistance to communities that are experiencing excessively high unemployment and therefore have excessive demands on their social services. It would also provide assistance to restructure

the local economy and create jobs, both long-term and short-term. This program would also provide direct aid to laid-off workers.

With regard to interest rate relief, this party believes very strongly that a program at the provincial level is not only appropriate but incredibly important and must be brought in during this budget. We would advocate grant assistance to home owners who are paying more than 30 per cent of their monthly income towards housing.

When this question was raised to the Premier and to the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) by this party, both indicated there was a federal program in place to provide exactly that kind of assistance, but the fact of the matter is the federal program is so narrow in scope it eliminates so many people. The only statistics I have are that in the community of Windsor only nine people have qualified: three of them for the grant program and six for the interest rate deferral program. The federal program was more window-dressing than anything else. Therefore, it is this government's responsibility to bring in a program of its own.

We advocate and encourage this government to bring in a program for small business. We have suggested that a \$50-million program of grants and loans to small business is very important in order to reverse the trend of increasing bankruptcies in that sector.

In the farm community, the Conservative provincial program is much too restrictive and again, many farmers have not qualified for assistance. We suggest there has to be a \$100-million program to aid farmers. This program would expand on the Ontario program in two key areas. It would loosen up the restriction on debt equity that the provincial Conservative government's program has and, second, it would provide assistance for long-term loans, and not just the short-term loans the provincial program now has.

In the housing sector, again there are significant problems. In the city of Toronto and in many other communities the vacancy rate is well below one per cent. That is driving up the rents of those buildings that are not under the rent control program.

Therefore, we have advocated a \$150-million program to stimulate the housing sector. The program would provide \$10,000 in interest-free loans for every unit constructed or converted to the co-op sector. It would stimulate 15,000 new units and, equally important, it would create 18,000 government construction jobs directly

and 14,000 jobs in the furniture, carpet and drapery areas as well.

3:50 p.m.

We feel that type of program would serve two areas. It would serve in the provision of housing in places like Toronto, Hamilton and Oshawa, but also it would create the jobs. It would create 18,000 more jobs than this provincial government has created since it was re-elected.

Further, this program would provide revenue of \$8 million in provincial sales tax, \$500 million in wages, \$20 million in provincial income tax, \$50 million in federal income tax; so it would not be simply a program where government is spending, it would also produce government revenue.

Further, we would reintroduce the speculation tax in order to keep down the prices of homes, especially in the city of Toronto. Interest rates combined with the rising prices of homes in this city have meant that many people simply cannot afford to buy a home. In order to purchase the average-priced home in the city of Toronto now would require a \$61,000-a-year income, which eliminates virtually all people in the middle-income and low-income groups.

An hon. member: Even MPPs.

Mr. Cooke: Even MPPs, that is right.

The most important aspect of this program of our party is one that was instituted in Saskatchewan, and that is a moratorium on foreclosures. There is no reason why this provincial government could not bring in that kind of legislation; it has been done in Saskatchewan. This government uses the excuse that it would chase out mortgage money and new people could not get in the market, but when one needs \$61,000 a year to get into the market, our major objective has to be to allow people to keep their homes at this particular time. So a moratorium on foreclosures is something this party believes in and will continue to push for.

The sixth aspect of our program in this area is one we have talked about time and time again, that is, the protection of workers. It is inexcusable that the severance pay program instituted last year by this government has helped only five per cent of the people who have lost their jobs within the last year; five per cent.

There was one case in my home riding which was raised in this House by our Labour critic: there were 49 employees, and it was very clear that this company had laid off six months earlier in order to avoid the severance pay legislation. Surely on that evidence alone it should be

obvious that the government should bring in amendments to the severance pay legislation to provide better protection.

Also, we believe very strongly that longer notice—and six months' notice is what we have advocated for any plant closure—should be brought in by this provincial government. That would allow for a system of justification before plants are allowed to close.

In the long term, we must come to grips with the structural problems that exist in our economy. On many occasions since this House resumed, we have talked about the problems in the auto sector and I want to spend just a couple of minutes reviewing some of our suggestions to reverse the trend of job loss in that sector.

It is not good enough for the Premier of this province to say that all the problems in the auto industry would be solved completely if the Japanese import problem was eliminated. That simply is not the case at all. I know, Mr. Speaker, that you recognize that problem because when you were not in the position of Speaker you did support my private member's resolution, for which I am very thankful.

Mr. McClellan: He will pay for it.

Mr. Cooke: I think he already has.

We are looking at programs at the provincial level to attack the structural problems that exist in the major manufacturing industry in this province. One major problem is ownership. The fact that the assembly companies, as well as a major share of the auto parts sector, are owned by foreign interests means that, as the Gray report and the Statscan report indicated, their tendency is to source parts from their home country. That has to be one of the major causes of the huge auto parts deficit which currently exists.

Our reliance on assembly as a result of ownership, our deficits, as I pointed out, the lack of research and development and the lack of adequate sharing or mix of skilled trades and of adequate investment by the auto companies, these are all structural problems that have meant the loss of 30,000 jobs in the auto sector and they have had no significant response by this government.

In northern Ontario also we have to look at the structural problems and the lack of government strategy. It is simply ridiculous that so much of our enormous wealth of raw natural resources should be exported and then imported in the form of finished goods.

It should be possible, through the tax structure, to obtain sufficient revenue for developing

secondary industries for the exploitation of our resources. From 1975 to 1979, revenues as a percentage of production averaged 16.53 per cent in Saskatchewan but only 2.98 per cent in this province. If we were to receive our fair share of revenues in the resource sector we could have a mining machinery industry in northern Ontario, one that was owned by the crown, by the people of this province, and which would create jobs for northern Ontario.

In the food processing industry we have permitted the sellout of our Canadian interests over the last two decades and now that industry is dominated by foreign multinational corporations. The result is that this province is now a net importer of food.

The Tory answer is to bribe companies when no bribe is necessary. The government is giving the Heinz operation in Leamington \$6 million to produce more tomato paste when it should be doing that in any case. If they will not do it, we should threaten to set up a crown corporation to go into competition with them. I think Heinz, along the other multinationals, would find that sufficient incentive. If Heinz or Del Monte do not want to follow our suggestions, why does government not join with farmers or other interest groups in a provincial co-op in order to keep the profits here in Ontario? Perhaps then we can once again become a net exporter of food as in the past.

Ontario needs economic leadership now more than ever before. Deindustrialization is causing increased unemployment in all sectors of the economy over the entire province. The situation cries out for government leadership. But the Premier seems to have lost his interest in governing this province. Two thirds of the throne speech is devoted to fed-bashing and although we have been back in the Legislature since March 9, it will be May 13 before we get a provincial budget. All this is clear indication that this government has no idea where to go, that it is directionless; and in the meantime thousands more lose their jobs. This government must recognize its responsibility to create jobs and turn the economy around.

We have a majority government that has become arrogant as well as without direction. Our party believes that everyone who wants a job should have a right to a job, and that people with jobs have the right to work in a safe environment. My colleague from Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) will continue to pursue the problems of health and safety with the same force as he has done ever since the beginning of this

session. Ontarians have a right to expect access to health care and other social services when they need them. They should have proper day care and housing and, as I have already said, an interest rate relief program.

This party will soon release its economic plans for what it believes should be part of a provincial budget. We shall be looking at investment in certain sectors and coming out with specifics. We shall be providing the kind of leadership that this government has failed to provide in the last number of years.

4 p.m.

For all the reasons that we have expressed during this throne speech debate, the fact that unemployment continues to increase, the fact that health and safety does not exist in many plants across this province and the fact that unemployment, as I say, continues to increase and interest rate relief is absent from this provincial government, I will be supporting, as will all my colleagues, the no-confidence motion this afternoon.

I doubt whether many members in the back row of the Conservative Party will. I see the member for Cambridge (Mr. Barlow) is now back. He knows the situation in his community. The member for Chatham-Kent (Mr. Watson) and members for other communities that are hard hit by this recession know the problems, and I suggest that while we know we are going to lose the no-confidence motion this afternoon, they had better get their act together in that government and push their Minister of Industry and Trade, their Premier and their Treasurer to get these programs in place.

The people of this province are looking for direction. They know they are not going to get it from Mr. MacEachen and Mr. Trudeau and thus far they have not received it from the Premier. Both levels of government have responsibilities, and I hope over the course of the next few weeks leading up to the budget this provincial government will listen to our suggestions and implement some of them on May 13.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I would like to bring to your attention that during the remarks of the financial critic of the New Democratic Party not a single member of the cabinet was in the House. I think it is really disgusting. There is not much you can do about it, but it is still a fact.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to interrupt my colleague and friend but, on behalf of my party, I want to express our profound

disappointment with the government party for the contempt they have displayed during the course of this throne speech debate and their sheer and utter discourtesy here this afternoon.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to delay my good friend the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway), but one of the things that has bothered me over the past 10 years is the way the Premier (Mr. Davis) has not considered the Legislature to be an important forum. It is my understanding that the Premier will be winding up for the government party this afternoon. In my memory, he has not had the courtesy to come in for any portion of the windup speeches of the opposition party for a considerable number of years and that is indeed an insult to the Legislature.

Mr. Nixon: The press is just as bad.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure and an honour for me to rise in this debate and conclude on behalf of my colleagues the presentation of the Liberal Party with respect to the speech from the throne. I must tell you in advance that I will be speaking more positively and more favourably in response to the amendment which this party put as opposed to the government's address as read by the Lieutenant Governor here on March 9.

In the past number of weeks, in consideration of the responsibility that was given to me to wind up this debate for my party, I have endeavoured to participate in the House and to listen to as many honourable members in their contributions as I have had time for, and I have tried to make time. On a number of occasions, having missed some very fine addresses, I have done what I do not often do, and that is to repair to the quiet of the library and read speeches made by honourable members.

I simply want to indicate that, having been here for the past number of weeks and having watched and listened, I too am somewhat distressed at the rather awful attendance that has characterized this debate. My colleague the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) has noted, as has the acting leader of the New Democratic Party, the rather insignificant attendance of members of the cabinet throughout the entirety of these throne debate speeches. I just want to note that. As a member of this assembly, I understand the time pressures we all function under and especially appreciate the

burdens of being in the executive council. But I think it is a sad comment about just how relevant this place has become in the eyes of the majority of its members.

Quite frankly and somewhat sadly, I note on all sides a tendency that increases apace in these debates, and that is the tendency of honourable members to stand in their places and read written speeches. Some of the very best speeches I have heard in this debate were written speeches.

After the adjournment hour last night, I was chiding the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren). I thought his contribution was excellent, but I was somewhat surprised to see the honourable member, whose oratorical skills and whose political presence in this place are well known to all, none the less stand in his place and read what, as I said earlier, was an excellent and very thoughtful speech.

I saw my good friend the member for York North (Mr. Hodgson), who has been here a longer time than I and perhaps a longer time than I can ever hope to imagine my being here, stand in his place about a week ago and read, endlessly, a speech that was not the kind of speech I normally associate with the very colourful member for York North.

Quite frankly, on that occasion I was distressed as well to have noted that we have now got to the situation where, while very few people come to the throne speech debates, those members who come to read written speeches avail themselves of what I think is a rather unparliamentary photo opportunity. The half dozen members who are here gather around the honourable member reading his speech so that a photograph might be taken, undoubtedly to send back to the local Trombone so that a perhaps somewhat more favourable impression of the milieu in which the great oration was made—

Mr. Nixon: Misleading, that is what it is. Misleading advertising—

The Deputy Speaker: Order. No honourable member misleads in this chamber.

Mr. Conway: I know from my personal experience of the great capacity of the member for York North to stand in his place and tell it like it is. I was just noting with some sorrow that a senior member of the House was now reading more of his speech than in my estimation had been traditionally the case.

I listened with great interest to the very

excellent speech made by my colleague and my leader, the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson). I thought, and members will undoubtedly agree, that in his remarks he gave an excellent overview of what is essentially wrong with this government's plan as set out in the throne speech and how it might be substantially improved upon.

I listened with great interest to my friend and colleague the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell) set out in great detail the rising tide of arrogance that is associated with yet another Davis majority government.

I listened with great interest to my colleague the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye) talk about the incredibly negative impact of the downturn in our auto industry upon his home community.

I listened with great interest to my colleague the member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. McGuigan) as he talked with feeling about what is happening to the nursing home sector and, as a result, to the provision of quality health care to the good people of his riding.

I listened with great interest to the member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy), who I thought made an excellent contribution, setting out his views of the new order, the new economic requirements, that face this province.

As I said earlier, I thought the member for Nickel Belt was excellent last night.

The member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes), though he went on at unusual length to tell us about what is happening to the high school in Schreiber, also drew our attention to something I want to spend some time with a little later, what has happened to a young forester in the member's great riding.

I listened as well with great interest to two members on the government side: the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Robinson), who made a thoughtful speech, and my friend the member for Lakeshore (Mr. Kolyn), who endeavoured to tell us what he thought about certain issues as they affect his constituency.

The member for Mississauga South (Mr. Kennedy) was entertaining us last night with views that, while somewhat different from those expressed by his minister, the Minister of Education and Colleges and Universities (Miss Stephenson), I found refreshing and, as always, interesting.

I listened with sadness to the biting negativism of the new member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris), from whom I had expected, quite

frankly, more than the diatribe that he offered us when he spoke here some few weeks ago.

4:10 p.m.

I listened to the incomparable, indescribable contribution of the member for Oriole (Mr. Williams), about which I promise I will say no more. Even though Lent is over, I stayed for that additional punishment, which is a lot more than I can say for the other 69 members of the government caucus.

But when it came to members of the government party, none was more interesting than the very colourful new member for Leeds (Mr. Runciman). I want to commend him briefly for the kind of independent spirit that he once again revealed in this House.

I know the Premier (Mr. Davis) and the administration are always interested to know about apparent inconsistencies on this side of the House. I do not intend to stand here today and embarrass my good friend the member for Cambridge (Mr. Barlow) about his recent public comments about the decision taken by the Premier, Hugh Segal and Allan Gregg in terms of Suncor. I do not intend to embarrass the member for Cambridge about comments attributed to him about the apparently heretical views he now has with respect to his government's own initiative.

But I can say to my good friend the member for Leeds that I am wondering who speaks for this government on one of the great issues sweeping Ontario, apparently as far as my Tory friends are concerned: metric. Just a few days ago I heard the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Elgie) set out again in very firm detail that this government in Ontario endorses four-square and without equivocation the metric commitment entered into some 10 years ago by the government of Canada. He said it without equivocation. He said it without so much as breaking stride.

Mr. Nixon: Or anything else.

Mr. Conway: Or anything else.

Yet the member for Leeds stood in his place the other night and talked about this federal madness, this metric madness, this unilateral madness that Ontario ought to resist at every turn.

I ask my friend the Premier, the leader of this government, who is it who speaks for the government of Ontario when it comes to the whole metric issue? I know my good Tory friends in Gananoque, Brockville and Athens want to know the answer to that question. They

assume that, having elected the member for Leeds a year ago, he is here to keep that promise. If one were to read the Brockville Recorder or other eastern Ontario newspapers, one would get the impression that this is a government which is at best mixed up on the whole question of metric.

My good friend the member for Victoria-Haliburton (Mr. Eakins) set out in eloquent form, in a press release dated April 7—something I know you have read, Mr. Speaker—the views of the Ontario government 10 years ago on metric. I will not bore my friend the member for Leeds about the ringing endorsement of John White, Darcy McKeough, Grossman Senior and latterly the Minister of Health (Mr. Grossman) as well as a host of other Tory provincial members in Ontario.

Without wanting to embarrass the member for Cambridge about this whole business about consistency, I noted with great interest the speech of the member for Leeds and how it differed sharply and openly from the most recent pronouncements of the Minister for Consumer and Commercial Relations.

Later I want to make some comments about the speech of the government House leader (Mr. Wells), whose contribution here last Thursday night, which unfortunately I was not here to hear but which I read with great interest, in some ways was the most remarkable contribution of the whole five-week debate.

I know I am under some serious time constraints. I want to deal with the matter at hand as I know, Mr. Speaker, you in your very precise interpretation of the rules in this place would want me to do. I want to talk about this document which we were all entertained with about five weeks ago.

I have been here to hear seven or eight speeches from the throne. In some ways this speech was unlike most of the others that I have heard, when one thinks about the reading of the speech and being here to hear it. I read it a couple of times afterwards, and a number of general impressions struck me about this document, particularly when I compared it, as I did knowing what interest there would be in these matters, with other speeches from the throne.

This speech from the throne was probably the most different and the most diffident of all I have heard. It was a speech that had good things, to be sure, and I want to give the government some credit.

My friend the member for Ottawa East (Mr. Roy) would applaud, as I and other members in

this place would applaud, no less than the member for Renfrew South (Mr. Yakabuski) would applaud, the stated ambition of this throne speech to improve French-language services to the people of Ontario in three significant areas. I applaud them for that.

I certainly applaud the initiative which is going to install a nuclear diagnostic system at the Princess Margaret Hospital. I applaud the initiative which is going to amend the Highway Traffic Act with respect to the protection of children under five years of age or 50 pounds as they travel in automobiles in this province.

There are good things, and I have named most of them in that short list. I must say to the member for York North and others that the GO service to Stouffville and Agincourt is, I believe, a good thing, although as one of my friends commented, and I thought it was an interesting reflection on this throne speech, it is pretty interesting when the highlight of the Ontario speech from the throne is a sort of bus route through north Toronto into central Ontario. In effect, that criticism speaks not to the shared enthusiasm for those initiatives but to what was not there in other respects.

Basically, it was a speech that was vague, imprecise, negative, despairing and despondent. It was such a contrast to the throne speech in 1980, which went on for so many pages, singing a veritable paean to the optimistic view and the provincial capacity of this administration, talking about X number of dollars, to take one case, for the employer-sponsored training program; that was not a vague, imprecise promise but a specific \$5 million.

It was a great speech on energy security and what specific initiatives were going to be taken. I know the member for Renfrew South applauded as we all did the stated commitment in here, not only to eastern Ontario but also to the great constituency of Prescott-Russell, to the provision of a French-language agricultural college. It was not a vague promise; it was a specific commitment.

There are some great lines on page 28 of the document about freedom of information and opening up the government without delay to the fresh winds of public scrutiny.

It was a positive and upbeat kind of document, which I suppose was notable for the significant lack of what is generally known around here as fed-bashing. To be sure, one paragraph lamented the federal high interest rate policy, but that was it. One can find one paragraph in this document of 32 pages in 1980

which is negative fed-bashing and the rest is so uppy, so positive as to contrast remarkably with this vague, imprecise, negative, despairing, despondent throne speech, saying in effect, "Let us throw up our hands; it is all somebody else's fault and responsibility."

When I look at and think about this March 9 throne speech, which in many ways has a negative and, dare I say, bitchy quality, I have to think about last March's election campaign. I thought specifically of how, when he came with his great entourage to the Ottawa Valley for his once-every-four-years visit, the Premier stood in Pembroke and said: "Well, I note the Liberals in this campaign have nothing positive to say. They are so negative. Dr. Negative is going around the province with nothing to say of a positive kind."

Well, how does the Premier's contribution in this throne speech debate square with the promise to the good people of Pembroke, Cobden and Renfrew that marvellous, sunny February Friday afternoon in the middle of a provincial election campaign?

Mr. Roy: What hypocrites.

Mr. Conway: My friend the member for Ottawa East talks of hypocrisy and there is no other, no better, no more appropriate word.

I got to reading the old clippings about the Premier's visit to my riding.

4:20 p.m.

Mr. Boudria: He never came to mine.

Mr. Conway: Count yourself among the blessed. If you were spared an intervention from the Deputy Premier (Mr. Welch) in that campaign, I must say you were even more blessed than those who were not.

When I reviewed the clippings about the Premier's visit to my riding that day, I came across something that was of some interest to me. I noted that when he was in our part of the province—and my friend the member for Renfrew South will well recall this—the Premier made an announcement that February afternoon that the Ontario government committed itself to a major park on the Madawaska River, a whitewater park, the first of its kind in southern Ontario. That was the promise made by the leader of this government, the leader of the Progressive Conservative Party, to my people one year ago.

I found it very interesting that on the first anniversary of the Premier's announcement there came to my office in Pembroke, from the local Ministry of Natural Resources, a two-paragraph statement that said the master plan-

ning program for the newly designated Madawaska River Provincial Park was being temporarily delayed because of shifts in priority of ministry work programs and fiscal constraints which have resulted in the postponement of park master planning across the province.

Granted, that is one small local example; but I have to say to my friend the Premier that those people who gathered to hear him 14 months ago took that promise, and it was presumably made in good faith. What does this announcement, dated February 1982, say about the worth of the word of the Premier of Ontario, and what does it say about the value of the promises made? That is a question which I put to my friend the Premier, and undoubtedly he will want not so much to answer me but to answer the people of the Ottawa Valley who are wondering about the worth of the promise made them.

Those of us who are here know more fully what it is to expect something from the Tory election promises. In 1977, I remember the famous two trees planted for every one cut. I know my friend the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) remembers it perhaps more keenly than others, because one night some years later, when the Crown Timber Act was before this assembly, it was the very alert member for Sudbury East who stood in his place and moved an amendment on the floor of the assembly to entrench and incorporate that great stellar promise of the Brampton charter made in the course of the 1977 election campaign.

I cannot, using the colourful language at my disposal, convey to any member of this House who was not present that night the utter angst, the apoplexy of the then member for Leeds, the Minister of Natural Resources, who teetered on the edge of cardiac arrest at the idea that somebody would seek to legislate that promise.

I will let the member for Sudbury East talk in his turn at greater length about the kind of cynical disposition of that promise, because there was one thing that was only too clear: they had no bloody intention then or ever of incorporating that promise. That speaks eloquently to this government and this party's view of the political process.

In the speech from the throne and many other times in the last four or five years, the government made a commitment regarding freedom of information. We now are treated to the pathetic spectacle of the member for Carleton-Grenville (Mr. Sterling), the Provincial Secretary for Justice, trembling in his place, wondering what the Premier and the Minister of Natural Resources

(Mr. Pope) are going to think of him and paddling like one cannot imagine to get out of a commitment that the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope) spoke so heroically of but 18 months earlier—and all of this after we spent \$3 million in trying to give effect to that particular promise.

I was reminded of something last night—and I am sure my friend the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick), if he watched last night's news, would have been reminded of it too, which would have been the experience of anyone who watched last night—when the New Democratic member for Burnaby, Svend Robinson, was on his feet in the House of Commons yesterday talking about the fate of Messrs. Cooper and McNamara with respect to their dredging trial.

It was more than five years ago that no less a person than the leader of the administration, the Premier, stood here and said, "Oh, be assured, member for Riverdale, be assured, Leader of the Opposition, be assured, anyone who seeks assurance, that once the cases are disposed of in the courts, I will make available the private internal investigation of retired Justice Campbell Grant."

Last night, five or six years after that all began, we were treated to the spectacle of the defendants leaving prison. The trial has long since evaporated into the legal history of this province, and what of the Premier's promise? I hope when he comes here today he will bring the member for Riverdale and me up to date on whether and when, on this side of the millennium or the other, he intends to give effect to a promise made in this assembly some five years ago.

My leader, in his very eloquent address some three weeks ago, reminded us of what the realities of March-April 1982 are as compared to the realities of March 19, 1981. I want to give credit to a number of members in this respect, but I certainly want to begin where one ought to begin in this place, with the very sensible intervention and commentary of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson).

I am quoting from my leader's remarks of March 16, 1982. He was talking about the realities of the late winter and spring of 1982. He reminded us that "the Ontario Economic Council predicts that if present trends continue we will lose 44,000 permanent manufacturing jobs by the year 1990."

He reminded us that, "according to the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, 80,000

small businesses in this province are at risk today."

He reminded us that "the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell) suggests that about 6,500 farmers are in serious financial difficulty."

He reminded us that "up to 10,000 families in this province are in danger of losing their homes" because of mortgage renewals in the current situation.

He reminded us that there are nearly 380,000 people unemployed in this province—people such as Joe McCullough, whose tragic personal circumstances were so eloquently spoken to by my colleague the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh).

The member challenged the Premier not very long ago in this House to tell him what to tell Joe McCullough in Whitby, who spent 25 years working for Firestone and who has now been thrown on the endless unemployment heap.

What does the promise of 1981 mean to Joe McCullough and the 380,000 other unemployed Ontarians? It means one heck of a lot. It is a very different reality from that which faced, for example, Omer Déslauriers, who too found himself involved in the great deliberations of a year ago and who well understands what the government meant by keeping the promise, because now he is ensconced in western Europe in great splendour and very happy about it, undoubtedly chosen because of his unique skills.

My defeated Tory opponent understood what it was to keep the promise. Indeed he does, sitting, as he now is, on the board of the Eastern Ontario Development Corp.

Jim Auld, a good member and friend that he was, understood what it was to keep the promise, happily ensconced as he now is in his recent appointment to the St. Lawrence Parks Commission, though I understand that keeping the promise in terms of employment opportunities for the former member for Leeds is soon about to take on a much more creative, a much more remunerative reality.

I know Joe McCullough in Oshawa is greatly impressed at the kind of treatment that has been accorded to various people in the Ontario economy, and I certainly want to applaud the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Oshawa, both of whom in their presentations brought these facts and figures to light.

Certainly it will be greatly appreciated by the young people of Ontario, in Unionville, in Mississauga and in Niagara-on-the-Lake. They

will love to know that the Experience '82 program offers them a net 1,200 fewer jobs than were offered a year ago. They will be very happy.

4:30 p.m.

The young people of Ontario will be endlessly pleased to know that of the jobs the Ministry of Natural Resources has to offer there is this special category of 500, thank you very much, that will be meted out on the basis of political referral, which undoubtedly will help explain, as I said to some of my friends yesterday, why between May and October there are more Tories than deer in Algonquin Park. Those kinds of realities and those kinds of commitments about "keep the promise" have been shown to take on very diverse realities, depending on what one's affiliation is.

Since so many other members have talked about it, I want to talk briefly about the hallmark of this lovely document that the poor Lieutenant Governor was force-fed and forced to read here about five weeks ago. I cannot recall in my time a speech from the throne that had as much anti-Ottawa bias, so much fed-bashing, as is contained in this lovely little exercise in throne speech debating.

Do the members know what I found so interesting? Eviscerating, hounding and laying waste the federal government as this throne speech did, there is tucked away in the early part a little pious prayer, on behalf of the government of Ontario no less, that it is so sorry co-operative federalism is dying. I have seen a great amount of paradox and hypocrisy in my day, but whoever the poor minion was who had to write those 10 pages of anti-Ottawa tripe, at the end of it all it says: "Is it not awful? We now lament the passing of co-operative federalism."

All this throne speech proves is what any observer of Ontario politics for the past number of years would well know, that Ontario Toryism has no permanent allies or enemies, only the permanent interest of perpetual political power. I hope this throne speech sets the record very and endlessly straight on that.

I know the members opposite will have read a book they helped publish, by the distinguished Ontario academic, Dr. Christopher Armstrong of York University, entitled *The Politics of Federalism: Ontario's Relations with the Government of Canada, 1867-1942*. I want to tell the poor soul who authored this high-planed, co-operative federalism document that the Lieutenant Governor read on March 9 that he was not really following too much of the best of

George Howard Ferguson and, I must say quite frankly, the best of Mitchell Hepburn, but that anti-Ottawa diatribe was really nothing new.

What is remarkable is the sharp turn in the relationship with the Ottawa government. I want to say we understand a little more now about that change, about this remarkable volte-face spoken of in this throne speech, because my uncharitable, bedroom friends always talk about the cosy relationship behind closed doors between Ontario Conservatism and federal Liberalism on a number of important matters.

Poor Joe Clark is still at the Red Cross blood donor clinic in Ottawa trying to pry loose from his emaciated being the many daggers of his Brutus-like friends in this lovely centre of Toryism, but that is another issue.

We got a good, inside look at how this government really operates in respect to its relationships. I know the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) and others will have read this intriguing article in the weekend edition of the national newspaper entitled "Tracking the Voters Right to the Polls" by Rosemary Speirs, dealing with the incomparable Allan Gregg. Tattoos and earrings at the Albany Club? What else can I say but "incomparable"? I hope those members opposite, and that includes the 90 per cent in the cabinet who did not know anything about Suncor, read this to find out what their political bosses really think they are worth. It is an extraordinary article, which if they read it, ought to make their blood boil and their spines tingle.

I know you, Mr. Speaker, setting aside your great business responsibilities 15 months ago to let your name stand in the purest and the best of parliamentary tradition, will be rendered nauseous when you find out what the pollster that charts the every course of this government says. I quote from the article and from Allan Gregg in it—this master planner, this Richard Werthlin of the north. You will be very happy to know what he thinks of you.

"'A lot of people find what I do frightening,' he concedes. 'I don't. A businessman starts with the philosophy that a dollar spent wisely is better than a dollar spent poorly. In the same way, votes are worth different amounts. So you identify the votes that can be swung and you allocate your resources there.'" It is a pretty obvious statement about what modern politics means to the Conservative, the small lemming-like core in the Conservative dynasty over there.

It gets better. The newly appointed associate

secretary in the Ontario cabinet, Mr. Hugh Segal, puts you in even better light, Mr. Speaker. He says: "A year before the March election, Mr. Gregg's firm had begun tracking 25 ridings that Tory strategists identified as bellwether ridings for the election. Mr. Gregg was able to tell them what kind of candidates to run in each riding—in general, strong local candidates, not identified with big-C conservatives, who could appeal to the moderate middle vote as well." This is Hugh Segal speaking about Gregg: "He helped us to understand that these days you can't just run good old Bob because he has been on the local Conservative executive for years and come up with a winner." That is the end of Mr. Segal's quote.

I hope that all the good old Bobs over there know what the power centre of modern Ontario Progressive Conservatism thinks of them. Who on this side of the House could not privately, if not publicly, bleed yet again and more profusely than ever before for the disconsolate former Minister of Energy, for the very unhappy former Minister of Community and Social Services, the now just plain old Bob, the member for Prince Edward-Lennox (Mr. J. A. Taylor), who talked about what it was like to get mugged in the corridors of power by these kinds of people?

Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to destabilize your stomach unduly by just reading the new insight this article provides on the Carleton by-election strategy. Tough partisan that I can sometimes be, I would not want in this august assembly so soon after a nice lunch to try to read of what that speaks because it is unspeakable as far as I am concerned.

I will say that the article in the Saturday Globe and Mail certainly speaks of a new democracy in this great loyalist land, among these, the first and the last of the Queen's loyal subjects. We certainly understand that these new democrats certainly march to a very—sorry, my friends; I will rephrase that—it is a new democracy derived not from Edmund Burke and not from Churchill, but from Ronald Reagan, Richard Werthlin and Pat Caddell.

Oh, what a lovely tribute this all is to the lovely loyalism that is so dear to the palpitating heart of the Deputy Premier and all others who gather around the Queen and the flag and preach that, faithful in the beginning, so let us remain—poor souls, thinking "faithful to the British parliamentary tradition"; as I said earlier, we understand that Ontario Conservatism has no permanent allies and no permanent

enemies, only a permanent interest in its own power.

Mr. Breithaupt: They do not know much about parliamentary tradition; that's for sure.

4:40 p.m.

Mr. Conway: My time is slipping away. I am glad that the charming, avuncular Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Elgie) is here. I would enjoin him stealthily to make his way to the member for Leeds (Mr. Runciman) so that they can decide which of them speaks for the government on metrics. The minister said some things about the member which would bother the most independent, nonpartisan soul here present. What the member does about that is, of course, his own affair.

In some of the time remaining I want to apply my remarks to a subject that was brought up by the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) and very well, I thought, namely, the whole issue of the public service in this democracy. We are aware of the Neil Fraser case, the discharge by the federal government of one of its employees who made some public comments which the government of Canada felt were inappropriate and unacceptable. A lot of coverage has been accorded to that.

I listened to the member for Lake Nipigon some days ago when he referred to this assembly the case of Donald MacAlpine, a young forester in the Nipigon area, whose situation should be of concern to this assembly. But I do not want to have to wait for a committee of this House in order to dissect the issues involved. There are those in the press gallery and their editors downtown who find nothing of interest to report from here. I invite them, starting with the Toronto Globe and Mail, to dip into the case of Mr. Donald MacAlpine and his ethics and integrity and to look at what the Ontario government asked that idealistic young civil servant to do.

I know my fair-minded friend the member for York East (Mr. Elgie) will be appalled to read of the impossible situation in which the young forester was put. He was asked—in effect, to "keep the promise" for a few of this government's big lumbering friends in northwestern Ontario—to do something which that young, idealistic and certainly naive forester considered in the ethics of his profession was most unprofessional.

The member for Lake Nipigon has already amply covered the guidelines introduced not long ago by the member for Cochrane South

(Mr. Pope) and intended to encourage public servants to communicate with members of the assembly, so I will not dwell on this. Yet this young forester found himself fired for following, as he believed, the directions of this government. It is a very interesting study in ethics.

Mr. McAlpine's case is of real interest to me because I am, I am prepared to admit, someone who believes very much in the British tradition of an independent, professional, neutral and nonpolitical public service. I know the member for York East will want to associate himself with those remarks. Here is poor McAlpine, hoist because his sense of honour and duty compelled him to believe that something needed to be done and that he could believe the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope) who in October 1980 encouraged openness.

Then I thought of the two recent political conventions in Ontario and became angry. I remembered watching the coronation of the New Democratic Messiah, and what a marvelous and delightful coronation it was by a party which has for 40 years eschewed the messianic politics which, as the member for York South (Mr. MacDonald) would quickly point out, in the estimation of all the Socialist academics in the province have bedevilled and held back this great liberal reform party.

I found interesting in the spring of 1982 which party it was that was completely given over to the search for and the triumphal coronation of the new Messiah who would lead it out of that distasteful—

Interjections.

Mr. Conway: I just want to say I view with great interest that it was that party which was interested in a new Messiah.

More important, I sat at home and watched one of the most unpalatable, distasteful demonstrations I have ever seen. What was that? I was watching the newly appointed associate secretary for the Ontario cabinet with special responsibilities for federal-provincial relations—Mr. Hugh Segal for anyone over there who does not know whom I am talking about. He carried on in a more rankly partisan and political way than any politician I saw at either convention. Poor old Doug Fisher on our broadcast had to keep bringing a big wet blanket, trying to settle down the partisan instincts of one of the most well-paid, senior public servants in this province. I have to wonder what Donald MacAlpine thought, sitting in Nipigon, when he watched that specta-

cle, a spectacle which, in my view, was despicable if not dishonourable.

Interjection.

Mr. Conway: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I was told I had until five o'clock.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order: The next speaker is the Premier (Mr. Davis). He is not here and he has not been here all afternoon. Maybe he will scuttle in after he is informed he is about to go on; I do not know. My honourable colleague was instructed by the table that he could speak until five o'clock. That is what he is planning to do, and I hope you are not going to interfere with that unduly.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): It was indicated to me that 46 minutes were allotted to each party and there were 13 minutes remaining for the third party to use.

Mr. Conway: On a point of order: I have a note from the table, "Your speaker," the Liberal speaker, "over at 5 p.m.," and I have tailored my remarks accordingly.

The Acting Speaker: I do not want to interfere, but is there any dispute on the 13 minutes?

Mr. Breaugh: On the point of order, Mr. Speaker: I always thought that parliamentary tradition indicated the chair was not a party to any arrangements about time-sharing. It would be my understanding that the honourable member has the floor and will continue to have the floor until he has finished speaking and the chair has no right to tell him that there is a time limit. There is nothing in the standing orders and nothing in our traditions that provides for that.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to recite chapter and verse of the comments recently made by the pristine, the ultimate in public service in this province, Mr. Hugh Segal, newly appointed associate secretary of the Ontario cabinet. Suffice it to say that it renders the policy of this government with respect to the political participation of public servants a laughable nullity when somebody like Hugh Segal holds nothing but a political hat, but does not have the guts to get out from behind those oak-panelled doors to let his name stand and come into this place and take a position as a politician. As long as he is ensconced in that cabinet office he is, in my view, a public servant and I am not about to see one policy for Donald MacAlpine and another policy for Hugh Segal.

What he had to say about the leader of the New Democratic Party, and the kind of advice that he has offered the Leader of the Opposition

(Mr. Peterson), is incredible. In one *Globe and Mail* editorial I noted it was even observed that no less a personage than the Premier had to tone down the remarks. I say to the Premier that if he believes the Donald MacAlpines and the public servants of this province are supposed to follow the dictates of the Ontario Public Service Act and the Ontario manual of administration, he had bloody well better start with the Ed Stewarts and the Hugh Segals.

Maybe somebody in the government would comment about something that appeared in the *Globe and Mail* the other day just before the Newfoundland election when a John Laschinger, who on that day, so far as I know, was an acting deputy minister of this government, was quoted. It may not be the same John Laschinger and, if I am wrong, I will completely withdraw and apologize.

Mr. Nixon: It is a very common name.

Mr. Conway: If the John Laschinger who is quoted in that article is the John Laschinger who is currently an assistant deputy minister in this government, then it adds yet more evidence of the disgraceful travesty that is at work in the government. In my view and that of anybody who watched that unbelievable spectacle last February when it trotted out the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development panopty, it gives one a clear understanding of how a public service could be perverted, if not corrupted, by 40 years of one-party government.

4:50 p.m.

I know that my friend the member for Brampton (Mr. Davis) in his defence of two "of the finest public servants I have ever known" will want to set the record straight on just how this policy in the public service defines itself. Perhaps the loyal subject of Her Majesty the Queen, the great monarchist from Brampton, will want to comment on the article that appeared in the November/December issue of *Policy Options* in which the associate secretary of the cabinet sets out a very American-style congressional view of the relationship between senior public servants and the administration. Was Mr. Hugh Segal, in writing in that document at that time, speaking for the government? If so, undoubtedly the Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Mr. McCague) or the Premier will want to stand and tell us how this new policy has evolved and how one policy might affect Mr. Hugh Segal and another policy might affect Mr. Donald MacAlpine.

I will not bore anybody with poor old Richard

Gilbert, the alderman for the city of Toronto, who actually last year tried to hold the Civil Service Commission to some kind of accounting for the disgraceful conduct, the abuse of the public service, at that time by the Premier's deputy minister appearing in government ads. I always remember Peter Raymont's excellent film. What Ed Stewart allowed himself to be quoted as saying and doing in that film is absolutely extraordinary. I do not, for a moment, imagine that people working so closely with the leadership of the government are not drawn into that kind of enthusiastic relationship.

I do not doubt for a moment that when Michael Pitfield and Michael Kirby go to the polls they do certain things. But can members imagine the outrage and the furore if Michael Pitfield appeared before a national television audience offering political comments about the racist tendencies of one of the members of Parliament? Can members imagine how that would be viewed? Can they imagine if Michael Kirby did the same on national television as spokesman for the Tory Party or the Liberal Party? It really speaks to a rot within this dynasty that will be rooted out only when the dialectic of democracy begins to work in this place and those rascals are run out of office.

With just six minutes left and a lot more to say, I will have to restrict myself to the last issue on my agenda. I want to say, because I am not going to have an opportunity to do so, I thought the best speech in this throne speech debate was the contribution made by the government House leader. He was eloquent, he was feeling, he was sensitive and he was understanding of the great issues that face this province in a new Canada. I want to say to my friends in the government party, I hope the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Mr. Wells) speaks for the best of Ontario Progressive Conservatism when he makes that kind of commitment.

I hope I never ever again have to put the minister's eloquent speech in the same context as the trash I read in the *Saturday Globe and Mail* about how Hugh Segal and Allan Gregg plotted to make the Tories stand in Carleton. I want to believe the minister is speaking for the best of a great tradition and for the best of a great province when he makes the kinds of statements and the kinds of pledges he made in his place a week ago. I want to congratulate him because I was not here when he made the speech. I read it and I applaud him for doing it. It took courage and it was obviously something in which he had invested a lot of himself.

When I was looking at how Hugh Segal, Allan Gregg and Norm Atkins plotted to win the day in Carleton—reading that on the one hand and reading that speech by the government House leader on the other—I sat there and I was in some ways stupefied. I was thinking about the great challenge because I was reading that moments after the proclamation of the new Constitution. I was thinking of something Lloyd George once said when he was talking about why he tried to take privately, if not publicly and publicly in many ways, a conciliatory approach to the defeated European powers after the First World War. If my memory serves me correctly, Lloyd George said that his conciliation grew out of what he believed to be the greatness of Britain and the greatness of the Allies. He said that fundamental to their greatness was the generosity which underlies any greatness.

In the speech of the government House leader I found the generosity of greatness. In the comments of that article and in the practice of this government in the national capital 15 or 18 months ago in that by-election, I found an utter abject want of either generosity or greatness. I wanted to take the opportunity today to congratulate the member for Scarborough North (Mr. Wells) for his very high-planed remarks.

As I sit and take my place, I want to say to my friends opposite that though they in the Tory party may be worn out by their dynastic stay in power, we in this party have been revived with a great leadership convention. We have renewed vigour. We have not only a new leader, we have a new leader in his place in this House and we are not making the surreptitious entreaties of people on the second, third or front bench, "Will you please stand down to let the Messiah through and in?" We have a new leader in his place who is going to lead this party in the spirit of reform from which this party developed.

When I look at the government's throne speech, I see a tired, bankrupt, "we don't know what to do" government. We see a government and we see a Premier succumbing to the politics of anaesthesia. I hope the Premier read Professor Nelles's lovely article in *Saturday Night* a couple of months ago about what incredible practitioners the Tories are in this respect of the politics of anaesthesia.

There was a lovely little quote there from Nelles. He talks about whether or not Bill Davis is a "huckstering circus barker." He says not really; Bill Davis is not a huckstering circus barker; he is a kind of a circus barker in reverse. He means that the Premier says at the outside of

the tent, and he says it softly, "There's nothing going on in there that would interest you."

I have to commend the leader of this administration because for six years of minority government he zapped this place with more tranquillizers and he zapped more obstreperous issues and obstreperous back-benchers. I hear that the new member for Humber (Mr. Kells) scarcely voices a syllable in the sacred precincts.

I want to tell my Tory friends that we in this Liberal Party intend to discharge our sacred duty in the opposition, to hold this government accountable for the outrageous conduct it has engaged in, conduct that is embarrassing members all the way from Hespeler to Brockville. We certainly intend to do everything in our power to ensure that three years hence, Hugh Segal, Ed Stewart, Allan Gregg—Pat Caddell and Ronald Reagan notwithstanding—the rascals over there will be thrown out in the interests of a better, more positive Ontario democracy.

5 p.m.

Mr. Peterson: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: It is with some regret that I look over to my left and I see, with one exception, that the NDP members have absented themselves from the House. I want to say that I understand their frustration.

I want to point out that during the speech of the spokesman for the NDP there were no government members in the House. It was only when provoked that the Premier (Mr. Davis) walked in to hear the last 15 minutes of the remarks of the person winding up for this party. The government members do not take this House seriously, as indicated by their presence today during the speech. They all walk in here in here like a bunch of trained seals to clap appropriately for the great dispenser of goods.

I say to you, Mr. Speaker, you must exercise some of your responsibilities in the private chats you have with the Premier to make sure that the House you preside over is taken far more seriously than it is by the government.

Mr. Speaker: Now, may I hear your point of order? Did you have a point of order? Was there a point of order?

Mr. Nixon: On the point of order, Mr. Speaker: I draw your attention to every member of the NDP being absent as a matter of protest. Surely it is better for us to use our voices to protest to you, sir, about the functioning of this chamber

which is being brought into disrepute by the Premier and his colleagues in the government.

Mr. Speaker: There is nothing out of order. I would like to take—

Mr. Nixon: Doesn't somebody pay you?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would like to take about 10 seconds and assure all honourable members that I do not have private conversations with anybody. I want to make that very clear, and I want to make it understood; and I do not want to hear that kind of allegation towards me again.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Maybe you should have.

Mr. Speaker: You are obviously not listening.

Mr. Roy: We are listening. You are paranoid.

Mr. Speaker: No, I am not.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, just to deal very briefly with the observations made by the House leader of the Liberal Party, I personally regret that I did not hear in the House all of the observations of the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway), but I want—

Mr. Nixon: The debate has been scheduled for two weeks.

Hon. Mr. Davis: With great respect, parts of it have and there was some doubt about it even then. I would say that I did hear some of it elsewhere. I would also point out to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson) that it has always been my understanding that question period was a very important time to the members opposite, and even though I was to wind up the throne debate today I was here for the total question period, unlike the member for Renfrew North. I am not being critical.

Mr. Nixon: So far you are third rate.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Listen, I just thought I would make the point that I was here. I would also point out—

Mr. Conway: You're better than that.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Oh, come on. He feels a little guilty, that is his problem. I have to tell the member for Renfrew North, if he wants to get a little bit partisan I am quite able to do so.

Mr. Roy: That is something you know about. Nothing is sacred.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Yes, there is no question about that, and that is why they are over there and we are over here. It is because we know how to do it.

I listened to the observations of the member for Renfrew North, which I found stimulating, and I say that very kindly, after several months

of hiatus. He adds a dimension to this House although I do not always agree with him. Some days I find his remarks have more style than substance. None the less I enjoy listening to him.

Mr. Riddell: You have neither.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I have always been modest about my own abilities and I shall remain modest. Some will say I have a lot to be modest about. I have never apologized for that. I look back over what is now close to 11 years and will retain that modesty because I think it is appropriate. That is something the former leader of the member's party did not quite understand and that the present leader has yet to understand.

Although the member for Renfrew North takes a somewhat statesman-like approach to this debate, he concludes by attacking a couple of individuals who cannot rise in this House to answer for themselves.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The only violin the member for Ottawa East (Mr. Roy) plays is a small one. We welcome him here every Tuesday and Thursday. It is wonderful to have him present. But I say to the member for Renfrew North, I do not think his attacks upon those two particular individuals add to his stature or contribution.

To the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) I say that I have been involved in government slightly longer than he has. I know the principles and policies that apply. I would not refer to this if the member had not raised it, but in that I have great respect and affection for my deputy minister, I want to say he discharges his responsibilities with talent and integrity.

As to Mr. Segal, with whom the member for Renfrew North loves to chat in the hallways but attacks here in the House, I know of the conversations the member has had over the years with Mr. Segal.

Mr. Conway: There have not been any in two years. I found out what a viper he could be.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I could tell of some things that go back a little way but I am not that kind of person. But certainly Mr. Segal has a partisan interest. Certainly he is a Progressive Conservative. He has never apologized for it.

Mr. Conway: He is a public servant.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Yes, he is a public servant and a very able one.

The member talks about those on our benches who may have ambitions to assume the leadership of this party and the premiership of this

province. When we have our convention—and we will, although it will not be soon—we will have several extremely able candidates offering themselves. I am not critical of those who offer themselves in that party but I must say after listening to the member today, I got the impression that the campaign for the Liberal leadership convention in 1986 had begun and that he is now a candidate.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I did not interrupt you. I know I struck a chord. I know I have uttered a truth.

Mr. Nixon: Of course you didn't interrupt him. You were not here.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Who knows, I may not be here then but I am sure it will be a great campaign in 1986. Who else among you will be there?

Mr. Conway: I will take defeat with honour and integrity rather than a—

Hon. Mr. Davis: That is nonsense and you know it. Your great problem is you cannot take a defeat. You do not like being beaten. You can't take it.

Mr. Conway: You have a rank Tory in the senior public service and that is the issue.

5:10 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am sure this is very entertaining, but it is not very constructive. I am sure the people who are sitting in the public galleries are not being overly impressed.

Mr. Conway: The Premier has sold out the public service to partisanship.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Oh, come on. You are not that naive. I'll give you some personal advice. I think you have some talent; I do not know—

Mr. Conway: You had better find out.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I didn't interrupt the member for Renfrew North—

Mr. Nixon: You weren't here. You were smoking your pipe down at the other end of the hall.

Hon. Mr. Davis: No, I wasn't.

Mr. Nixon: Well, I'm glad you've got some good habits.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Now, having said that, the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I was just trying to tidy up one other little loose end, because the

member raised it. He very appropriately referred to Mr. Laschinger, who in fact is the acting deputy minister. He made some reference to him and told some story—I do not recall the exact wording of it. But I say to the member, if he is concerned, Mr. Laschinger was not involved in the Newfoundland election. I just want to make it abundantly clear. I know he will sleep better tonight as a result of that, but that is my information and I happen to believe it is correct.

As one looks at the results of the Newfoundland election and the near destruction of the Liberal Party, one has to get the impression that, no matter who had offered advice, that was going to happen in any event. I think the member knows that.

Mr. Conway: The issue is your prostitution of the Ontario public service to your partisan end. That's the issue.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Oh, come on. Don't belittle those men. Don't do that.

Mr. Conway: You are perverting the senior public service to your end; that's the issue.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Oh, come one. That's utter nonsense.

Mr. Conway: You are perverting—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I ask for the co-operation of the member for Renfrew North.

Mr. Conway: You have it.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Sweeney: The Premier was being provocative.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Premier.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, the candidate from Kitchener-Wilmot suggests that I was being provocative. You know, sir, that I am never provocative. I can be provoked, but I am never provocative.

Mr. Nixon: Bring out the platitudes one more time.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I only say to the member for Haldimand-Norfolk and wherever that if one talks about platitudes there is no one in this House who does it more effectively than he does. I say that with some genuine measure of respect.

Mr. Nixon: Bring in the Argos next. Or the Lord's prayer.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I would feel badly if the member for Haldimand-Norfolk-Oxford-Brant and wherever did not share my views on the Lord's prayer. Knowing his background and his

traditions, I doubt very much that he would go home to—

Mr. Nixon: What do they say about Pharisees praying in public?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I will make a prediction. He will not go home to St. George and say anything different with respect to the Lord's prayer.

Mr. Nixon: You know about Pharisees.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I know about the member, and I know him well. I know his traditions. I know he too supports the Lord's prayer—he may not want to admit it here in the House, but I know better—and what's more, so does his wife. I will not deal with the wife of the Leader of the Opposition today; he does not want me to do that, because it upsets him.

There is one other matter I would like to refer to. I thought the member for Renfrew North was not only accurate but also constructive in his observations about the excellent contribution made by the government House leader. I have to say to him that his assessment as to the content of it was totally accurate. Not only do I share what he said, but also I hope other members of his caucus share what he said about that contribution.

Mr. Bradley: Did you say that in Carleton?

Hon. Mr. Davis: You can see what I said in Carleton any time you want.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I do not write pamphlets—

Mr. Roy: Oh, no.

Mr. Wrye: You didn't do it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: That's fine. I say to the member for St. Catharines that he interprets things the way he wants to interpret them; if he wants to carry those wounds, he can be my guest.

I will come back to some of the leadership things. I will not embarrass the member for Kitchener (Mr. Breithaupt), but I will give him some advice. If he had asked me at the outset, the greatest single mistake he made was selecting the campaign manager that he did. Without any question whatsoever, that was his fundamental error. I say that with some regret.

Mr. Conway: What did Darcy McKeough say? No class.

Mr. Nixon: He was right.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, endeavouring to—

Mr. Riddell: Can we expect any substance, or are you wasting our time?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I intend to get to some substance if you do not interrupt us too often.

Mr. Roy: Stick to fed-bashing.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am going to deal with the government of Canada for a few moments, I warn you right now.

Mr. Bradley: Where did you spend the weekend?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I am again being provoked by the member accusing me of being in bed with the feds all weekend. I have to tell the members I was there Friday night with 2,500 people. It was a great event; I was delighted to be part of it. But I could have been at a hotel in downtown Toronto and I would have felt I was at a Liberal fund-raising dinner. Do not speak to me about patronage and Tories and all the rest of it; I am sure every poll captain from Renfrew North was in attendance; every Liberal poll captain, that is.

Mr. Conway: Did they have the cardinal?

Hon. Mr. Davis: The cardinal was there Saturday night and it was a great thing that he was there Saturday night.

Moving on to issues of substance, because talking about the leadership across the House is not talking about substance—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Do you want me to go into some of the quotes, chapter and verse? I would be delighted. I shan't.

I want to deal very briefly with the events of the past weekend, not in terms of the symbolism but in terms of the change that we will be seeing taking place in this country. I confess that for me, and I am sure for all of us, it was a very emotional moment at about 11:37—in spite of the weather—when the proclamation making this country independent was proclaimed by the Queen of Canada.

As I sat there, without umbrella, I could not help but think of the process that had brought us to that point; the discussions that we were having just about a year ago now in this Legislature; the divisions that existed across this country with respect to the old litany of the Group of Eight, the Group of Two, the Prime Minister, the Group of Three, depending on the feelings of members opposite on any given day.

I said to myself that the event of Saturday morning said something about this country.

While these differences were there, and while I believe the other premiers believed many of the things they were saying during that period of time, when it came to the ultimate crunch we were able to find an accommodation, a compromise, whatever terminology one may wish to use, that led to the accord reached on that Thursday morning and, as a result, the proclamation on Saturday last.

There was a certain sadness because I am sure all of us there were disappointed. I guess we were concerned about the absence of one of our sister governments. I do not think anyone in this government minimizes the concern all of us feel. At the same time, to have made a decision that it should be delayed or not take place because the government of Quebec would not participate, I think would have been a fundamental mistake.

I guess it is fair to state that while that sadness was there, that disappointment, none the less it was more than offset by the genuine response of the people there. These were not all monarchists. These were not all people from Ontario or from the nation's capital. They were people from Quebec, from many parts of the country. They stood there, excited; they gave a tremendous welcome to Her Majesty, something I think says another thing about our country and about our new Constitution.

I know other members across the House shared the perspective we brought to bear two and a half years ago when there appeared to be some modest doubt as to the continuation in the same form of the role of the monarchy or the crown or the role of the Queen in our government.

5:20 p.m.

There was no doubt in my mind as I watched that gathering and saw the response that one of the unifying factors, one of the things that gave that ceremony Saturday morning greater substance and meaning for me, was the participation of Her Majesty the Queen. I would like to take this occasion to put on the public record how much I, as the first minister of this province, appreciated her participation, her understanding, knowing full well that, very normally, her heart and mind were perhaps in other places.

It demonstrated to me once again not only the necessity of the tradition that is part of our way of life, but the very personal way in which Her Majesty discharges her obligations as Queen of this country. I wish to express in this House our great affection and respect for her.

I would also like to make it clear that while Saturday in my view was a great day for this country, history will assess it. I am not sure what historians will say. I do not propose to attempt to add to the documentation of that period, but I think I should remind all members that while that particular proclamation accomplished the basic objectives of patriation—our right to amend the Constitution and a Charter of Rights—there is still work ahead, not only in terms of our Constitution but in terms of making the spirit of our new Constitution work across this country.

I do not mean to provoke the members opposite. I really say from my heart that I am concerned that after the November meeting, after the accord that was achieved, I somehow have sensed in federal-provincial relations that the spirit of enthusiasm and co-operation is tending to diminish, and that the groundwork is perhaps being laid to revert to situations which can lead to rhetoric and debates between the levels of government and perhaps even in relation to parts of this country.

I think our task as politicians is to try to seek ways and means to bring the people of this country together. I recognize that as provincial premiers we cannot avoid or abdicate our responsibilities of putting provincial positions, but increasingly we must make a genuine effort to feel and sense that as Canadians we are all part of this nation, and that as Canadians we are being treated with equity in terms of the various regions or provinces of this nation.

This leads me to a brief discussion of the economy. It would be easy for me on this occasion to attack with some vigour, and I think with reason, some aspects of federal government policy. However, I will not deal with that in great detail on this occasion except to touch upon it in a general sense.

I went to the last first ministers' meeting. I went there perhaps with a little of the euphoria of last November, perhaps with the anticipation that the heat of the constitutional debate had dissipated and that we would see that same sense carried forward into the federal-provincial deliberations on the economy. But that was not the sense of that meeting.

Ontario had some specific proposals. I am not going to take any great pride in authorship, I am not going to say they represented solutions to many of the issues that confront us; but I do say, and this has been supported by many members of the business community, they did represent at least a step or some ideas that were worthy of consideration and pursuit.

At that conference I ran into the mentality that used to exist prior to the final constitutional discussions: the government of Canada really predetermining its point of view. I really got the sense the government of Canada was kind of anxious that the premiers go home after the first half-day, that it would suit its purposes if we would leave in high dudgeon and not continue on with the discussions; because, quite honestly, I sensed it did not want to come to grips with some of the constructive suggestions being made by the various provinces across this country.

Mr. Epp: That is the way you treat the municipalities.

Hon. Mr. Davis: With great respect, it is not the way we treat the municipalities, and the honourable member knows it.

I have to say that I sat there—and I said it publicly, so it is not a question of betraying any confidences—but when, and I must confess that I initiated part of it, I suggested that we should tackle equalization in order to make it easier for some of our sister provinces to adjust, the Prime Minister said—and he was not hiding it—“Yeah, we might put a little more into equalization, but we want to keep it for ourselves to do our own program in our own way.” That is a paraphrase, I would say to the member for Renfrew North, but it is relatively accurate.

You see the mentality we are now beginning to deal with. There is the question of credit, the question of who gets his sign on the front lawn of a new building—

Interjections

Mr. Sweeney: What about the Toronto street-cars with the Ontario logo on them?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I have to tell the member for Kitchener-Wilmot, when he sees a new street-car going by, it was the initiative of this government that provided 75 per cent of that. I made an offer to the Prime Minister of this country that if they wish to get more visibility for their involvement with the post-secondary institutions they can put a red and white sign on the front campus of the University of Toronto, they can put one at Ottawa University. I have no quarrel with this whatsoever; I would be delighted to see it.

But what I am saying to the members of this House, and to the public of Ontario, is that sort of approach, that sort of attitude, will in fact not resolve the economic problems facing this province or this country. I refer in a specific way to the auto sector. We got no real response in a

public way to our concerns about the auto sector.

We read about the megaprojects. I listened to Senator Olson—and he is a sincere man, I do not quarrel with that—saying the federal policy seems to be that the megaprojects are going to solve our economic problems. I have news for him: the megaprojects in fact will not solve the short-term or the long-term economic problems of this province.

I have to say to him, and I have to say to all of the members who I know communicate with him daily, that the auto industry for this province, with 500,000 people directly affected, in my view is a megaproject. It is something that has to be considered by the national government as a major priority. It cannot be sloughed off by saying, “We are going to build this project or that project and we don’t worry about the auto sector.”

I say to the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley) that he should be concerned. I would say to the members from Windsor that they should be concerned, because it is fundamental to economic wellbeing.

I know some object to the points of view I have expressed with respect to the importation of primarily Japanese automobiles.

Mr. Bradley: Who objects to that?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Oh, I do not say it is the honourable member. The member should not take it so personally. He should not be so arrogant as to think I am talking about him all the time.

Mr. Bradley: Who on this side?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am not talking about the people opposite. He should know I am not talking about him. He should relax. I did not say “on that side.” Listen to me. I said “some object.” I have to tell the members, those involved in the business object, those who happen to be dealers object, and I understand that, I am sympathetic.

Mr. Nixon: They object to paying—

Hon. Mr. Davis: I would say to the member for Brant-Oxford-Haldimand-Norfolk, I look at his leader’s contributions so far—and I shall get around to those—and one of his very insignificant contributions was trying to raise that issue with the Treasurer. I thought it was very belittling and very demeaning. It is not like him to do that.

Mr. Peterson: You don’t understand the implications, that’s your whole problem.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I know. I understand.

Mr. Nixon: It's just like when you used to fly around with Gerry, the same attitude.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I know who the honourable member flies with, and I know who his new leader flies around with; I understand it. But I have to tell him it was that sort of mentality that probably kept him from being the Premier of this province, and it is a very regrettable attitude. The member believes in him anyway.

5:30 p.m.

Dealing with the auto sector, the point that I think has to be made and clearly understood is this: no one is quarrelling with the quality of the product. No one is attempting to alter our relationships with Japan. But we are not talking about just another industry; we are talking about something that is 25 per cent of the economic base of this province. I know the argument presented by some, that we have to be competitive, and I do not quarrel with that. I know we have to compete in terms of quality.

I know people point out to me that the workers in Japan receive something less and so they will be able to produce their vehicles at a lower price. I also know this about Japan: their politicians earn less, their doctors earn less, everybody in Japan earns something less than we do here in Ontario. When some of my friends who happen to be in professions say to me, "You should have free trade, you should allow unfettered importation," I say to them, "Your patient"—I do not say that too often these days—"your client could be a member of the United Auto Workers who is employed at American Motors, who is facing the need to survive on the basis of the importation of these vehicles."

Mr. Conway: What about Jim Taylor's Lada?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I made my observations about that. The honourable member may not share them and, if not, then let him say so. I would be delighted to have him support that.

Mr. Conway: The contamination is in your party, not mine.

Hon. Mr. Davis: If the member wants me to point out for him the differences of opinion in his party, then I have to tell him I could spend the rest of my few moments just pointing out those contradictions.

Mr. Peterson: We are tired of talking about Suncor.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I understand. I recall how vigorously the honourable member opposed the acquisition of Fina by Petrocan. Let us compare

the figures some day. Some day the member should remind me of just what he said in those days. He did not say one word, and he knows it. I know what he said to the YPOs. I say to the member for London Centre that we share too many—not friends, but common acquaintances. I know what he says to the YPOs and I know what he says to some others on some of these relevant issues. I get this sort of communication with some regularity.

To get back to it, we are not talking about just the survival of an industry; we are talking about a lifestyle or a way of life. I have said to the Prime Minister, and I have said to Mr. Gray and Mr. Lumley, that this country had to become—aggressive is not the right word—firmer in terms of its relationship with some of our trading partners. Go to western Europe, see what the quotas are in terms of Japanese imports of autos in many nations in that part of the world. Even the Americans, the great free traders, have without any question negotiated an unwritten deal that is superior to what we have. In fact, we have nothing in any way, as of April 1, not to protect but to give our industry an opportunity to survive.

I go on from that sector to mention one other small matter—because I know the member for Wentworth North (Mr. Cunningham) is not in his seat; he was not here earlier—just to express a regret. I read these stories in the paper. I know the politics of trying to prove that the Urban Transportation Development Corp. is a failure because it is a government initiative and that, in the minds of some opposite, I have been rather directly related to it.

I guess what disappoints me—and I think the members opposite could do themselves some small credit, because we are competing in high technology in this field, and it is a Canadian accomplishment—is that the government in the United States has signed a letter of intent with respect to Detroit, approving that project, while all others have been set aside. We did this in competition with nations from other parts of the world, and yet the member for Wentworth North seems to take some great delight in trying to undermine the capacity of UTDC to effect the implementation of this exciting new technology.

Mr. Conway: The member for Leeds (Mr. Runciman) wants to sell Ontario Hydro. You had better be careful.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I would say to the member for Renfrew North that in following his leader's position on Suncor, which was different from

his position on Fina and many other things, he will want to sell Hydro next. That will be his next position.

Mr. Peterson: You are on thin ground on this one, are you not?

Hon. Mr. Davis: No. With great respect, I would tell the member for London Centre not to exaggerate that issue. He will be making a fundamental error, in my humble opinion.

Mr. Peterson: Don't give me that—

Hon. Mr. Davis: Just be patient; time will tell. I am quite prepared.

I want to touch briefly on a noneconomic issue, the question of our present situation with the medical profession. I want to make it quite clear that I and this government have complete confidence in the way the Minister of Health (Mr. Grossman) is conducting himself and representing the views of the government on this most difficult and sensitive issue. I want to make that abundantly clear.

I am not going to belabour the Leader of the Opposition but, since the member for Renfrew North talked about leadership, I have to tell him, if I can offer him some friendly advice as I did to his predecessor, he cannot get away with getting up day after day and saying, "What are you going to do about something?" if he is not prepared to take a position himself.

It is not sufficient to say to the press, "That question is unfair." I have watched him perform for several days. I do not know what he is going to do when one of his researchers puts the question before him. He will read the 23rd psalm and the question will be, "Now what are you going to do about it?" When is he going to initiate some questions on his own? When is he going to do something by himself?

Mr. Nixon: You have flunkies and speechwriters over there.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Oh, come on. I do not use speechwriters.

Mr. Nixon: What do you pay them for?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I have a lot of material here I have not even touched.

Mr. Conway: You would not dare.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Ask my staff how frustrated they are that day after day they prepare excellent material for me and I never use it.

Mr. Conway: What about the Brampton charter? What about two trees for every one?

Hon. Mr. Davis: No, it was not. I have to say that shows how wrong the member is again. He just cannot keep up with things. It was the

Bramalea charter. One has to draw a distinction in my community between the Bramalea charter and the Brampton charter. I will show him the difference some day.

Mr. Conway: What about two trees for every one?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Two trees for every one? Listen, by the time this administration is finished in 1995, there will be four trees for every one. He knows that; I know that.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Why did you say 1995? It is 2010.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Oh, I am sorry. The Minister of Colleges and Universities is upset by my using the term 1995. I retract that. It is 2025. Is that better?

I want to refer to the throne speech itself. I know I will not succeed in convincing the members opposite to change their point of view. I have learned after 11 throne speeches—

Mr. Conway: What about poor Barlow and poor Runciman?

Hon. Mr. Davis: What about them? I will tell the member what about them; they will be voting in support. If his caucus had learned, on issue after issue—

Mr. Conway: No doubt about it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Let me give the member one quotation from the member for Kitchener when his leader trotted out, and I do not blame him for trotting it out, some interest solution. What did the member for Kitchener say? "It is the dumbest thing I ever heard of." That is what he said about it. I did not say it; he said it.

Mr. Conway: What did Havrot say about the Indians? Do you and Havrot have the same multiculturalism policy?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Does the member want to know what the member for Hamilton Centre (Ms. Copps) said about it? I have that here too. Does he want to know what his—

Interjections

Mr. Speaker: The member for Renfrew North—

Hon. Mr. Davis: Does he want to know what his own leader said about his own party? He says he—

Mr. Roy: What did you promise on Inco four years ago?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is not question period.

Mr. Roy: He is asking the questions.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I cannot embarrass the Leader of the Opposition any further. I have some of the most quotable quotes one will ever see, even some from the member for Kitchener-Wilmot as he went through that exercise. I went through it 11 years ago myself.

5:40 p.m.

Mr. Conway: Remember what Norm Atkins said about you 10 years ago? Old baggy-pants Davis. You ought to talk about anybody.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Do not get so exercised. If the member for Renfrew North had wanted to be a participant, why did he not run?

Mr. Conway: Because you are the prize—and some prizes I don't want. If you are what it takes to win, I don't want it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The member for Renfrew North might have won. Look at what the member for Hamilton Centre did in nine months as a member of this House. She came from nowhere and she nearly made it after nine months. The member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson) had been campaigning for four years.

Mr. Peterson: Is that sort of like your leadership victory?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Certainly it is. Listen, it was 44 votes. It was wonderful.

Mr. Bradley: Where is Al Lawrence when we need him?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I know where Allan is, and he is doing very well. The Liberals will never take that seat from him.

Mr. Peterson: So you hope.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Listen, I do not pay much attention to the polls, but I hope the member read the latest Gallup. They even had some provincial figures there. I have to tell the Leader of the Opposition that there is no question the leadership convention of his party altered those figures. It altered them by about one per cent; that is where they have moved since then.

Mr. Peterson: Up or down?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Now he wants to know "up or down." I do not want to spoil his evening; so I will not tell him.

Mr. Conway: You don't break wind without Allan Gregg telling you how, when and where.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: You wouldn't part your hair without Martin Goldfarb.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I would say to the member for Renfrew North—

Mr. Speaker: Will the member for Renfrew North please come to order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I will not get into what Vickers and Benson said to the new leader of the Liberal Party as to contact lenses and hairdo. Obviously I take a lot of advice on that.

Mr. Haggerty: You have four minutes, Bill.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I have four minutes. Are you listening to me?

Mr. Speaker, to be serious in conclusion, I know that during these debates sometimes we do not get to all the matters of substance we would like to, and I have another half dozen.

I do not minimize, nor does the government, the present economic situation that confronts the people of this province and of Canada. It would be very simple for me to say—because it is true—that the responsibility primarily rests with the government of Canada. It is also fair to state that there are international situations that impact upon this country over which the national government has no control. I do not minimize that for a moment.

At the same time, I will not be one of those who for whatever reason in any way diminishes the opportunity or minimizes the confidence we, as Ontarians and Canadians, have in our ability to deal with these issues. I will not give members comparisons with other nations of the world. I will not give them comparisons with the states of the union, except to make this observation: Partly because of policies initiated by this government, partly because of the general directions taken by the throne speech and what will be forthcoming in the budget, the people of this province have every reason not only to be optimistic but also to be confident about the future that lies in front of them.

That does not say there will not be a period of some difficulty. It does not say the members opposite will not have opportunities to constructively press suggested alternatives to present government policy. I should forewarn them that it may take me two weeks or two months to seize upon any good idea from members opposite, but if they are good ones they had better believe they will find their way into government policy, being ours at some point in time. That is the way we do it, because I have never closed my mind to constructive—

Mr. Conway: The Premier is a larcenist when it comes to policy.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The member's great mistake is that he has never taken a good idea, because he cannot recognize one when he sees it. That is his problem. It is true, and he knows it.

Mr. Conway: Poor old Joe Clark is still at the blood donor clinic for his last stand with you over federal energy policy.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am enjoying this exchange, but I have to tell members this: We may have had our differences on some matters of policy with our national leader, but when the chips are down, unlike the opposition members' former leader, I was there when the polls were good, and I was there when the polls were not so good. I have been with our national leader every single time. That is more than the provincial Liberals have been. Their party would not even have the Prime Minister of this country to breakfast. They would not even have him to breakfast in the midst of that campaign, because he embarrassed his party. I think that is regrettable. It is disloyal, but it is typical and it is shameful.

Mr. Speaker, may I sum up my observations by urging the members opposite to support what is one of the great throne speeches of this decade; it outlines a pattern which will enable us to provide the kind of leadership and direction that will give to the people of this province the economic recovery and the economic growth they so rightfully can expect.

I realize I have talked to a group of people and the message will fall upon deaf ears, but I am also confident that because of the great men and women in the caucus on this side of the House, that excellent address by His Honour the Lieutenant Governor will be supported and the business of this government and of the people of Ontario will continue Thursday next at two o'clock.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Did the member for Renfrew North not hear me?

Mr. Robinson moved, seconded by Mr. Harris, that an humble address be presented to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor as follows:

"To the Honourable John Black Aird, an officer of the Order of Canada, one of Her Majesty's counsel learned in the law, Bachelor of Arts, Doctor of Laws, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario:

"We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario, now assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honour for the gracious speech Your Honour has addressed to us."

Mr. Peterson moved, seconded by Mr. Nixon,

that the motion be amended by adding the following thereto:

"This House, however, regrets that the speech from the throne fails to recognize the most serious and fundamental problems facing Ontario today, and condemns the government for:

"Failing to develop programs to ensure adequate job creation and to protect Ontario workers from the continued decline in employment prospects;

"Making no new or increased support towards the preservation of Ontario's health, social and education sectors, specifically towards hospitals, day care, services for the elderly and post-secondary institutions;

"Presenting no specific programs to help small businesses, farmers and home owners to deal with the record high interest rates;

"Refusing to recognize Ontario's need for massive retraining programs for Ontario's workers."

Mr. Foulds moved, seconded by Mr. Martel, that the motion be further amended by adding the following thereto:

"This House further regrets that the speech from the throne fails to recognize the province's own authority and jurisdictional responsibility to take action to relieve the social and human consequences of our economic situation, or to combat the devastating effects of the federal government's high interest rate policy and the resulting unemployment.

"And, further, this House condemns the government for failing:

"(a) To create a crown corporation in the auto parts sector to achieve Canada's fair share and which would take as its first responsibility the formation of a consortium with Massey-Ferguson and Chrysler to create a diesel engine facility in Windsor;

"(b) To move into an ownership role in the resource sector;

"(c) To take steps to initiate an interest rate relief program for farmers, small business and home owners;

"(d) To establish a moratorium on foreclosures of property, as has been done by the provincial governments in Saskatchewan and Manitoba;

"(e) To safeguard and enhance the health care and social service systems of this province.

"Finally, this House condemns the government for failing its responsibility to protect adequately the community and work environments of its citizens. It specifically condemns the government for exempting from an envi-

ronmental assessment Ontario Hydro's project for an underwater cable to export electrical power to the United States. Therefore this government has lost the confidence of this House."

5:54 p.m.

The House divided on Mr. Foulds's amendment to the amendment, which was negated on the following vote:

Ayes

Boudria, Bradley, Breaugh, Breithaupt, Bryden, Cassidy, Charlton, Conway, Cooke, Copps, Di Santo, Eakins, Edighoffer, Elston, Epp, Foulds, Grande, Haggerty, Johnston, R. F., Kerrio, Laughren, Lupusella, MacDonald, Mackenzie, Mancini, Martel.

McClellan, McEwen, McGuigan, McKessock, Miller, G. I., Newman, Nixon, O'Neil, Peterson, Philip, Reed, J. A., Reid, T. P., Renwick, Riddell, Roy, Ruprecht, Ruston, Samis, Spensieri, Stokes, Swart, Sweeney, Van Horne, Worton, Wrye.

Nays

Andrewes, Ashe, Baetz, Barlow, Bennett, Bernier, Birch, Brandt, Cousens, Cureatz, Davis, Dean, Eaton, Elgie, Eves, Fish, Gillies, Gordon, Gregory, Grossman, Harris, Havrot, Hender-

son, Hennessy, Hodgson, Johnson, J. M., Jones, Kells, Kennedy, Kerr, Kolyn, Lane, Leluk, MacQuarrie, McCaffrey, McLean, McMurtry.

McNeil, Miller, F. S., Mitchell, Norton, Piché, Pollock, Pope, Ramsay, Robinson, Rotenberg, Runciman, Scrivener, Sheppard, Shymko, Snow, Stephenson, B. M., Sterling, Stevenson, K. R., Taylor, G. W., Taylor, J. A., Timbrell, Treleaven, Villeneuve, Walker, Watson, Welch, Wells, Williams, Wiseman, Yakabuski.

Ayes 51; nays 67.

The House divided on Mr. Peterson's amendment, which was negated on the same vote.

The House divided on Mr. Robinson's main motion, which was agreed to on the same vote reversed.

Resolved: That an humble address be presented to the Honourable John B. Aird, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario, now assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honour for the gracious speech Your Honour has addressed to us.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

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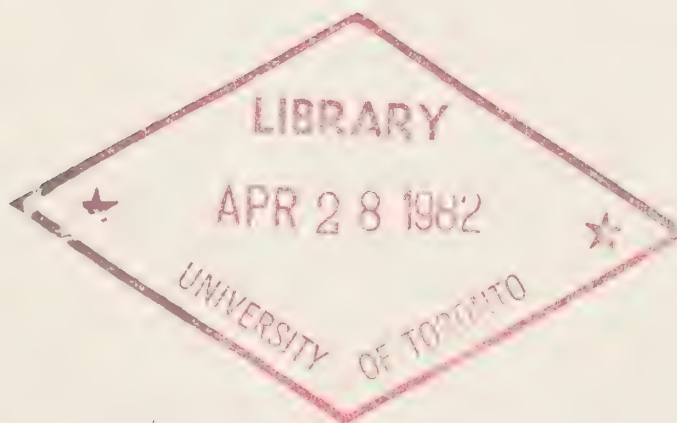
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Wrye, W. M. (Windsor-Sandwich L)



Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)



Second Session, Thirty-Second Parliament

Tuesday, April 20, 1982

Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, April 20, 1982

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

House in committee of the whole.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Consideration of Bill 10, An Act to amend the Municipal Elections Act.

On section 1:

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Chairman, I rise to oppose the carrying of section 1 of this bill. When it was introduced, the parliamentary assistant told us it was a very short and simple bill and that its purpose was simply to provide for a uniform three-year term of office for municipal councils and local boards across the province, beginning with the coming municipal elections this fall.

The parliamentary assistant then went on to tell us on second reading that this bill was intended to achieve certain objectives. He did not say it would simply extend the term from two to three years. He said it would do these things: First, it would increase voter turnout; second, it would allow for long-term planning; third, it would encourage municipalities to act more responsibly and depend less on the province for guidance; and, fourth, it would heighten public awareness, create an interest in local government.

These are all very commendable objectives, and I agree with the parliamentary assistant in hoping this extension of the term may produce those objectives. However, the parliamentary assistant seemed to see this legislation as a sort of bargain with municipal politicians. In return for the benefits of a three-year term, he stated he hoped that municipal politicians would provide better municipal government. He put it this way: "We believe that municipal politicians will fulfil their part of the bargain with the province, and if they do, municipal electors will be better served by the three-year term."

If this bill is an agreement between the province and the municipal politicians for better municipal government, it seems to me it ought to spell out the terms of the bargain more precisely. We are all in favour of better municipal government. We all know that at the provincial level we consider it part of good government to have disclosure of election contributions and

expenses. But when I raised the necessity for similar disclosure at the municipal level and for including it in this bill, the parliamentary assistant did not say he was opposed to the principle. He just did not consider it part of this bill.

I contend that if this bill is in the nature of a bargain with municipal politicians for better municipal government, the terms of that bargain should be spelled out in it. One of the most important terms is the disclosure of election contributions and expenses, over \$100 at least, because we all recognize that turning the spotlight on election finances is a deterrent to corruption. It can mean that citizens know what is going on and whether anybody is influenced by large contributions.

I think this short and simple bill is incomplete without adding to the extension of the term from two to three years a provision requiring this kind of disclosure, if we are to ensure better and more honest municipal government. I do not think the three-year term should be adopted without that part of the bargain being spelled out, without making municipal politicians accountable for the financing of their elections in the same way as we are accountable at this level under the provincial Election Finances Reform Act. I would like to see an outright limit on expenses as well, which we do not have under the provincial Election Finances Reform Act, but at least we should start with disclosure of both contributions and expenditures. I want to propose an amendment to section 2.

The Deputy Chairman: I suggest to the member, if she is making an amendment to section 2, we will deal with section 1 and then proceed to section 2 after section 1 has been dealt with.

Ms. Bryden: I am sorry. I wish to make an amendment to section 1.

The Deputy Chairman: Ms. Bryden moves that section 1 of the bill be amended by adding thereto the following subsection:

"(2) Every candidate shall file with the clerk within the 30 days after the polling day a statement disclosing,

(a) the candidate's total revenues and expenditures relating to the election;

(b) each of the candidate's expenditures relating to the election that exceed \$100; and

(c) the names and addresses of all persons who made election contributions in the form of money or goods to a value of \$100 or more.”

Mr. Epp: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: As I understand it, the deputy chairman asked us to discuss section 1, and the member for Beaches-Woodbine got up and said she had some disagreement with section 1. She then proceeded to speak about it. Following that, she made an amendment to section 2, which was distributed to us some weeks ago. We have not got to section 2 yet. The member then said she was going to change section 1. I am not sure what section she is talking about.

The Deputy Chairman: The member has just presented it to become part of section 1, as subsection (2) within that. We are discussing an Act to amend the Municipal Elections Act, dealing with change of term, and I have to rule the member's amendment out of order. It is not pertinent or germane to the motion before the House.

Ms. Bryden: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: I cannot see that it is opposite to the statement about change of term. It is simply an addition to the provisions regarding the extension of the term from two years to three years. As I pointed out, the parliamentary assistant had said the bill has certain objectives that are not spelled out. I am simply spelling out what are the means of achieving those objectives.

8:10 p.m.

The Deputy Chairman: I appreciate you are trying to make a point of order, but you are adding another dimension or another aspect to the bill, and I am ruling that out of order. The matter could be the subject of a separate bill perhaps, but it is not, in my opinion, a part of the bill before the House right now. Is there any further discussion on section 1?

Mr. Newman: I regret very much, Mr. Chairman, that you refuse to accept any amendment to section 1.

The Deputy Chairman: The honourable member will recognize that this amendment is taking it outside of the context in which it has been presented. If you have any other amendment, you may present it.

Mr. Newman: We are dealing with An Act to amend the Municipal Elections Act. Regardless of whether what she refers to is included in section 1 or not, she wishes it to be added to subsection 1. I think it is a quite reasonable

suggestion that disclosure as well as limits be included there.

We discussed this in first reading of the bill and it is extremely important. We would be instituting a new provision in municipal elections that would allow one to know who contributed as well as the amount contributed. If you do not allow that amendment, the individual who can raise the greatest amount of money will be the one who has the best opportunity of winning.

Mr. Rotenberg: Mr. Chairman, I believe you have ruled it is out of order. Therefore, I suggest that further discussion of your ruling is not in order.

The Deputy Chairman: I wanted to give an opportunity to the member for Windsor-Walkerville to complete his point of order. He has done so and my ruling stands. The amendment presented by the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden) has been declared out of order. The motion before the House deals with what is printed. Are there any other comments on section 1?

Mr. Epp: Mr. Chairman, I regret that this has been ruled out of order. I think that from time to time we should have an opportunity for discussion—

The Deputy Chairman: Before the honourable member goes too far, we are dealing with—

Mr. Epp: I have not gone far enough yet. You do not even know what my speech is going to be. You should not rule me out of order before you hear me.

The Deputy Chairman: I would be very pleased to listen to the honourable member.

Mr. Epp: You are being very presumptuous. I find that surprising in a man coming from the great metropolitan area of Toronto and with the skills, ability, intelligence and education you have.

The Deputy Chairman: I present to the honourable member the same point of view I have already expressed, that adding a new principle to the bill, as has been suggested in the amendment, is out of order. My ruling will stand.

Mr. Epp: I will speak on the principle. The point I want to make is that the government is so hidebound by its tendency not to give any leeway to the opposition that it will not let it suggest any amendments when it wishes to make minor, or even major, alterations to a particular bill. It only deals with those clauses

that deal with exactly what has been discussed in caucus, in cabinet or in policy meetings. It brings in only that very narrow piece of the bill that the government wants to change. It will not permit us on any particular occasion to—

The Deputy Chairman: I call the honourable member to order.

Mr. Epp: I am in order.

The Deputy Chairman: You are dealing with an issue outside of the context of the bill.

Mr. Epp: I am dealing with the context of the bill.

The Deputy Chairman: In dealing with the principle of the bill—

Mr. Epp: I am dealing with the context of the bill on a broader scale.

The Deputy Chairman: I must tell the honourable member that according to the rules of the House we are in committee of the whole going through the reading of a bill. Legitimate amendments and comments on the bill, as printed, are welcomed by the House, and this is the opportunity for that.

Mr. Epp: The point I am trying to make is that the bill is so narrow you do not give the opposition ample opportunity to discuss the range of options that should be available when dealing with 835 municipalities in this province. Those municipalities are very important to this province. You are saying they are not very important; therefore, you give us a very narrow range of options to deal with that particular bill.

The Deputy Chairman: I thank the honourable member for his comments. I do believe we are dealing with a specific bill and the principles that lie herein and not additional principles. I will ask for any further discussion or debate on section 1.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Chairman, in deference to your high position and your importance to this Legislature I will leave it. Nevertheless, I do think you are in error in making that decision.

Mr. Gillies: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman; I might just refer the member for Waterloo North to standing order 86 which says very clearly in regard to amendments to bills in committee of the whole House, that bills may be amended "if they are relevant to the subject matter of the bill." The subject matter of this bill, as laid out in the explanatory note, is the extension of the term from two years to three years.

The Deputy Chairman: Perhaps honourable members will realize we are just dealing with the

term of office. Is there any further debate on section 1 of this particular bill before the House?

Mr. Epp: Mr. Chairman, in speaking to that point of order, I want to draw to your attention that we are speaking about the terms of municipal politicians. As the honourable member has adequately pointed out, standing order 86 indicates we should deal with something very relevant. Certainly the expenditures of politicians in being elected to a three-year term, as opposed to a two-year term, are relevant to that point. I cannot see it being irrelevant as you are ruling. I think you are in error and I only wish you would admit this error in the presence of all these people so that we can deal with the amendment in hand.

The Deputy Chairman: I thank the honourable member.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say a few words on this bill. I particularly wanted to say a few words because there are a number of people in the gallery from Scarborough North who are here tonight to see—

Mr. Epp: Is that relevant to this bill?

Hon. Mr. Wells: No. They are here tonight to see some of the important business that this House does. I am sure that of all the issues we could have picked for the agenda tonight, this is one they are most interested in.

I heard the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden) say she was opposed to section 1, but I would gather, after her amendment was ruled out of order, she is probably in favour of section 1 now. Still, when I heard her say she was opposed, I felt I should say something about what is the substance of section 1.

I think many of these people from Scarborough North, whom we are very pleased to have here tonight, would want to hear about this particular amendment.

Ms. Bryden: On a point of order: You can't talk about it.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I am sure they would also be very pleased to know—and I have heard you congratulated once already—that I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on being in the chair tonight because you come from the area of Markham, just north of Scarborough and you have to travel through Scarborough all the time. We are very pleased that is so.

Mr. Epp: I fail to see how the fact that you have

to travel through Scarborough is relevant to the bill.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I am coming to that.

Mr. Epp: On the same point of order; I have not been given the same latitude you are giving him.

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Chairman, on the same point of order; it is obvious that this bill will have as much effect on the people of Scarborough as anywhere else.

Mr. McClellan: On the same point of order: Are all these people delegates?

The Deputy Chairman: The Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs may carry on.

Mr. Conway: The most important question is, did you buy the dinner?

Hon. Mr. Wells: No, I didn't buy the dinner, but we are having refreshments afterwards. If you would like to come over and mingle with them and have a word, we would be happy.

8:20 p.m.

Section 1 provides specifically for the change in term for municipal elections from two years to three years. This is an important change. I want to say in this House I support this change. I have heard it mentioned around this province that when I was responsible for municipal affairs, which I was until last summer, I was opposed to a three-year term. In fact, I am in favour of a three-year term. I say that notwithstanding that I know there are a number of people, probably many of them in the gallery tonight, who are not thoroughly convinced this is a forward step.

There are a couple of things that recommend this section to us. First of all, increased voter turnout was mentioned. Anything we can do to increase voter turnout is a good thing, particularly increased voter turnout while saving money. Under this provision, within six years we will have had two elections rather than three. Across this province, probably a couple of million dollars or more will be saved because of this step. Measured against that must be—

Mr. Laughren: The purchase of Suncor.

Hon. Mr. Wells: We have already purchased Suncor. We are not talking about that and I want to keep in order tonight.

Measured against that must be whether the saving is not worth the fact we are only going to have two elections rather than three.

Mr. Conway: Bishop Strachan and the Family Compact had the ultimate solution.

Hon. Mr. Wells: What I am saying is there are many people here tonight, I am sure, who recall when we had a one-year term in this province. In the first elections I worked in, I recall elections were held on New Year's Day, which meant one could not go to any New Year's Eve parties because one was too busy getting ready for the election the next day.

We moved from that to elections in late November and early December. We moved from one year to two years. We moved to a uniform election day in this province, the first Monday in December. We moved to three-year terms in Metropolitan Toronto and in the regions. Then we moved back from three-year terms to a uniform two-year term in this province. This was all basically done with the idea of increasing voter turnout and increasing voter interest in municipal elections.

The fact is it has not worked that well. There are other advantages to this whole process. There is the whole idea of long-term planning, fiscal planning and long-term restraint by municipal councils. There is the fact that once they are elected they can settle down to a three-year program. They can save money by cutting out one election every six years. I think this will increase voter turnout, but we will not know until it has been tried for a while.

These all outweigh what are still valid arguments on the other side that remaining with a two-year term would be satisfactory. I do not think it is a black and white, "you are right, I am wrong" situation. But when one balances them off, moving as we are from a two-year term, as we did from a one-year term a number of years ago, is a sane and sensible step in this province.

I wanted to get that on the record tonight because I felt there were some people who believed I was somehow opposed to the three-year term but was going along with it merely because it was government policy which, of course, is exactly right. I would go along with it anyway, but I just want you to know that I believe we should change to the three-year term. It is a progressive step in this province. Accepted in that spirit by the municipal politicians of this province, it can make for better government for all of us.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Chairman, I realize this is not a debate on second reading, but when I read the final subordinate clause of the explanatory note, "the election to which is governed by the act," I interpret that to mean that part of the principle of the bill is the government of municipal elections. Therefore, I would argue, with

respect, that the amendment of the member for Beaches-Woodbine was within the ambit of the principle of the bill and in the language of standing order 86 within the title of the bill, An Act to amend the Municipal Elections Act.

Again, I am not wanting to quibble or quarrel, but I do feel that the bill before us is sufficiently broad in its ambit to permit a discussion of the amendment put forward by the member for Beaches-Woodbine. There seems to be agreement within the other opposition party that that would be a useful thing to do and that it is an important and significant amendment. I would ask again that the member be allowed to put her amendment and that we have a discussion about it.

I will not belabour the point. This has been an interesting statute because all three parties have expressed agreement with the principle of the three-year term, but a minority of speakers have spoken in support of the three-year term. I shudder to think what would happen if the bill came to a free vote. At any rate, I am pleased to support the principle of the three-year term quite unequivocally.

Again, I would ask you, Mr. Chairman, to reconsider the decision taken with respect to my colleague's amendment because I feel, and I think my colleagues in the Liberal Party feel, that it is in order and that we should have an opportunity to debate it.

The Deputy Chairman: I will make a comment on the ruling. Because of the narrow nature of the bill within subsection 9(1) of the Municipal Elections Act dealing specifically with the term, I feel very comfortable with my own ruling. In spite of your statement, I am staying with that.

Ms. Bryden: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, to correct the record: The minister mentioned that I had said I was opposed to the three-year term. What I said was that I was opposed to the clause in its present form, unamended. In the second reading debate I certainly made it quite clear that I thought that the three-year term is a step in the right direction but that it is incomplete without clauses such as are in my amendment where we do have disclosure of contributions and expenditures, as we do at the federal and provincial level. I do not see why municipal politicians should be exempt from that kind of public disclosure so that the voters know what is going on.

Mr. Di Santo: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: I want to refer directly to the propo-

sition put forward by the member for Scarborough North (Mr. Wells). He said that the main reason he is supporting the bill is the hope that it could lead to—

The Deputy Chairman: If there is going to be further debate on that issue, I cannot accept it.

Mr. Di Santo: I will come to the point of order.

The Deputy Chairman: Quickly, thank you.

Mr. Di Santo: He said it will probably increase the voter turnout. I think the member for Beaches-Woodbine is right when she says that unless this amendment is completed with—

The Deputy Chairman: I understand what you are coming at and I do not accept your point of order.

Mr. Eakins: Mr. Chairman, I am sure there are many members of this House who support the three-year term, but I want to speak against it. I feel that if there was a free vote in the Legislature this bill would not pass. I have some serious concerns because I know when we are elected as members of this Legislature we are not guaranteed a three-year term. I was elected in 1975, and we went to the polls a year and a half later.

There is one question I want to ask the minister. I have received many letters on this and I think there should be some consideration given to it. I am sure there are many people here in the galleries tonight who are cottage owners. There is a very great concern on the part of the people who are cottage owners and want to participate in the municipal vote in this province. They are very concerned with municipal affairs that are taking place in the areas outside the great area and suburbs of Toronto.

I want to ask the minister what consideration is being given to accommodating the people who are cottage owners outside the Metro area so they can exercise their franchise by moving the date, perhaps to the Saturday of Thanksgiving, so that they can participate before the cottage is closed up and they move back to the city until the next spring.

8:30 p.m.

If we are going to make sure that everyone has a full opportunity to participate, and we should be encouraging as much participation as possible, one thing this government must do is make sure that every opportunity is given to these people to participate in municipal elections.

I am asking the minister what consideration is

being given and whether he will consider changing the voting date in order to accommodate the many thousands of people in this province. I am sure many in the minister's riding are cottage owners elsewhere in the province and wish to participate in the election process.

The Deputy Chairman: I am concerned as to who is the correct person to answer your questions. Possibly the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing should be the one.

Mr. Eakins: I was thinking he might be a future minister. I was giving him the benefit of the doubt.

Mr. Rotenberg: From your mouth to Bill's ear.

Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the member for Beaches-Woodbine for giving my speech of March 16 when we had second reading, because it will save the House a lot of time in that I will not have to reiterate all the reasons we should have a three-year term.

I would point out that she may use the term "a bargain with municipal politicians," but this is not a bargain with municipal politicians. This is a unilateral action on the part of the government at the almost unanimous request of municipal politicians. We do hope that with the three-year term the municipal politicians will be able to do their job better and more responsibly. But it is not, in those terms, a bargain with municipal politicians.

I would point out to the member for Victoria-Haliburton (Mr. Eakins) that one of the reasons election day was moved from the first Monday in December back to the second Monday in November was to accommodate the point he has raised. At this time, the government is not contemplating changing the election day further back into the year from the November date.

Mr. Chairman, you have ruled quite correctly that the amendment put forth by the member for Beaches-Woodbine is out of order, but I would like to inform the House—

Mr. Stokes: In your opinion.

Mr. Rotenberg: In the former Speaker's opinion too. I am sure if he was in the chair he would rule the same.

Mr. Stokes: Do not presume to speak for me.

Mr. Rotenberg: I said if the former Speaker was in the chair, it is my opinion he would also rule it out of order.

I would like to point out to the members of the House that although legislation proposed by the ministry does not always reach the floor of

the House at the time the ministry wants it to, it is the intention of this ministry, in this spring session, to bring forward a further amendment to the Municipal Elections Act that will include an amendment to the clause to which the member for Beaches-Woodbine refers.

If it comes forward to the House on schedule, as the ministry hopes it does, there will be an opportunity for this House to debate fully and completely the issue of municipal election expenses declarations, disclosures, and so on. It is my hope that will be happen before we rise in June.

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to debate your ruling but I would like to say, had I been in your position, I would have been inclined to accept the amendment because of the explanatory note. Wherever the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) got his interpretation that it was not contained in the title, if he reads section 86 again he will get a better appreciation of what a legitimate amendment is, as opposed to the position he took.

I want to speak against the three-year term. I do so because when I hear the parliamentary assistant getting up and saying there is almost complete unanimity across the province by municipal elected officials, I do not know where he is coming from.

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario does not enjoy the unanimous support of the people in northern Ontario or in rural Ontario generally. I want to tell you why, Mr. Chairman. If you—

An hon. member: Tell it to them.

Mr. Stokes: Would you be quiet? That is what I am trying to do.

If you look at the voting patterns and the number of people who are attracted to municipal elections in Ontario, I would dare say that if you got a 40 per cent turnout in most municipal elections, you would think there was a great body of support for what was going on at the municipal level.

In a lot of communities in the north, for reeve and council, for hydro commission and school boards, acclamations are much more prevalent than are contested elections for positions. I get letters from reeves and mayors in northern Ontario saying they think this is going to make people shy away from aspiring to municipal office because it would commit them to a task of trying to look after the administrative and legislative responsibilities of their communities for a period of three years as opposed to two. It

is difficult enough to get people to run in municipal elections when it involves a two-year commitment and it is a genuine concern.

It is not because they are opposed to change, but because of their experience with the problem and their inability to attract people to accept the responsibility of municipal government even for a two-year term. We can readily appreciate how much more concerned they are going to be and how much more reluctant people are going to be to commit themselves to a three-year term.

Since the government House leader wanted to vary from the contents of this bill for just a moment, for his own purposes—and I do not blame him; if there were 400 people here from my riding association I think I would be inventive enough to think of a reason to remind all members of the House of their presence.

If the parliamentary assistant wanted to reflect on what all of the people throughout Ontario thought about this piece of legislation, he might have thought of being a little bit flexible. We have different ordinances, different regulations, different laws in northern Ontario than in southern Ontario for very reasonable and very legitimate reasons.

He could have been more inventive because there is a lot of opposition to this concept of a three-year term for municipal government, and he knows for a fact that their concerns are legitimate concerns in the context. I am sure if he wanted to share his correspondence with us, he would admit that is the case.

I wonder what the chairman would say if I wanted to move an amendment to the appropriate section of this bill to have it apply to all of those municipalities south of the French River so that we would maintain the status quo in northern Ontario. I am wondering whether or not—and I am not going to move that motion—

Mr. Rotenberg: It would be in order but I would not support it.

8:40 p.m.

Mr. Stokes: If the parliamentary assistant and minister responsible for introducing this bill wanted to do something positive and to cater to the wishes of the majority of the people in the province, given the kind of feedback they have had, I think they would bring in the amendment that this three-year term would apply only south of the French River. I would like to hear what the parliamentary assistant has to say about it.

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Chairman, I want to deal with the position taken on the ruling of the

chair. I want to bring to the attention of the chair, the parliamentary assistant and other members that a week ago we dealt with Bill Pr3, An Act respecting the City of Toronto. Under section 8, there was a similar amendment to that moved by the New Democratic Party member suggesting there should be some accountability for election expenditures relating to municipal elections and their financing.

I want to read to the chair the amendment proposed for the Toronto bill, where it deals with the selection of the candidate in the Municipal Elections Act:

“(b) Contributions means any contributions in the form of money or goods or services or a combination thereof in excess of \$100 to the election campaign of a candidate, but does not include any goods produced by voluntary unpaid labour or any service performed by an individual voluntarily for the candidate without compensation from any source; and provisions for limitations on election expenses by or on behalf of a candidate or any class or classes of candidates, require approval of each such expenditure, and the total expenditure be filed with the clerk of the corporation within such a time and such a form as may be set out in the bylaws.”

The city of Toronto has requested that in the Toronto bill. Perhaps it is the forerunner in many areas of municipal bylaws and municipal legislation, but I was astonished by the parliamentary assistant when he said he plans on bringing in a further amendment to this bill to include such amendment moved by the member for Beaches-Woodbine. If that is the case, I suggest the bill should be withdrawn tonight. There is not that much need to expedite it tonight if we are going to bring in amendments.

Considering the proposed amendment by the member for Beaches-Woodbine, and with the proposal on the Toronto bill, I would suggest that is the proper time to reintroduce the changes in the Municipal Act, moving it from a two-year to a three-year term. I support the proposed amendment. I supported the one in committee dealing with the proposal put forward by the city of Toronto in its private bill.

It is an indication that municipalities are concerned about the expenditures of candidates during a municipal election. I would like to ask the parliamentary assistant when we can expect this new proposed amendment to the Municipal Elections Act.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Chairman, I took part in this debate at some length on second reading. I expressed an opinion at that time in support of

the two-year term in opposition to the three-year term. This is the strangest debate I have seen on any bill since I have been in this Legislature. When we debated on second reading, the majority of members of the House spoke against it—

Mr. Samis: Especially over there.

Mr. Swart: Especially over there. I am wondering tonight if the back-benchers are going to get up and express their opinions on this again. Are they going to have the same courage shown by some members on this side and some members over there to at least express their individual opinions? After all, they have municipalities and ratepayers back in their areas who want them to stand up and express opinions on their behalf in this Legislature. I look for some of them to get up to take part in this debate in opposition to this.

It was rather significant, after the majority of people in this House spoke against the three-year term, that when it came to the vote no one stood up in opposition to it at that time. That was very strange. Perhaps strangest of all are the comments from the member for Scarborough North.

He will recall that we had some private conversations about the two or the three-year term. He will remember he made comments in this House and in the estimates that he was in opposition to the three-year term. While he was responsible for municipal affairs, he would not introduce a bill to institute the three-year term. When he got up and spoke tonight in support of the three-year term, to put it mildly I was surprised.

I suppose everybody can change their minds on an issue like that, but it is such a total about-face. I think he may be worth wooing to bring over to this side of the House. If he can change his mind as thoroughly in that way, perhaps he can change his mind enough to join the reasonable approach of the New Democratic Party and come into our caucus.

I remember he said earlier there would be a loss of accountability if we went to a three-year term from a two-year term. I do not think I am misinterpreting anything the minister said at that time. He said there would be fewer people involved because they have the chance to run every three years instead of every two years. He said now there will be an increase in voter turnout.

I can remember the arguments put forward at the time we were debating this issue two, three, four or five years ago, that the voter turnout would likely be less if we only had an election every three years, because we lose sensitivity

towards and consciousness of elections. So it has been a strange debate to this time.

I am wondering, in view of all the expressions made here by the members, if perhaps the suggestion by the member for Erie (Mr. Haggerty) is not a wise one. Perhaps the bill should not be proceeded with tonight but should be tabled or withdrawn and all of us should have another look at it in our caucuses. We might find that the suggestion of the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) would find favour in many areas of this province, and may I suggest not just perhaps north of the French River, but other areas too. Where there are not dense populations, we might find the majority of people, the majority of members, might like some changes.

We should accept the suggestion from the member for Erie and hold this bill in abeyance and not pass something tonight that we may regret in the years ahead and for which the back-benchers, particularly in the Conservative Party across the way, will have to be continually answering when they did not believe in it.

Mr. Ruston: Mr. Chairman, I listened to the debate on this bill on second reading and it was rather strange that so many people got up, many from the government side, objecting to a three-year term. There were a number from the opposition side who also objected, but no one objected when the Speaker called for those in favour of second reading of it. No one really objected.

It is rather strange, now that we are into committee of the whole—maybe it is because of the audience and because the member for Scarborough North (Mr. Wells), who was the minister in charge of this for a number of years, was against a three-year term, but, now we have a new minister who says, “Fine, we are going to go for the three-year term,” while we have heard others say we should go for a two-year term.

8:50 p.m.

I am from a small rural riding of 11 municipalities. I read in the newspapers the interviews of a number of people on what they thought of a three-year term, and if they were going to run for re-election this fall. Most of them said, “I might have considered it, but I am not sure now with the three year-term.” Frankly I think most of them will be running whether it is a two-year or three-year term; I happen to know a little bit about politicians—and there goes one now, walking in front of me, the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Mr. Wells). What concerns

me is that we are going backwards and forwards in this legislation.

When I sat down here this evening, I wrote out a little amendment. I am not going to present it, Mr. Chairman, but I want you to listen to it; it is probably what a lot of people would like but do not have the gumption to get up and say. I am willing to read out what a lot of the members here would like to have, but I am not prepared to put it and I will tell you why. I am from a rural, small-town area. We accept, sometimes, what the big cities want because we are one province — and we are one country since last Saturday and I am proud of it. In my first speech in this Legislature I said I was a Canadian first and an Ontarian second and I stand behind that today.

To get back to my amendment, it would read, "An election shall be held in accordance with this act in each municipality with a population of less than 50,000 in 1982 and every second year thereafter, and every third year in a municipality with a population of over 50,000."

That would probably answer the problem with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. They had a split. The majority carried it, although the small municipalities were against it. But we are pretty broad-minded in the rural areas. We feed the people of Ontario and many other people throughout the world. We are willing to accept the three-year term, so let us get on with the business.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Chairman, the parliamentary assistant mentioned that the present timing of the municipal election accommodates the cottage owners. Most cottage owners close their cottages on Thanksgiving and the present timing does not accommodate that. You would have to move the date of the election back to the fourth Monday in October in order to have an advance poll during Thanksgiving weekend.

I think that is a perfectly reasonable request. This party recommended, at the time we set that November date, that it should be moved back to October but the government rejected it then and it is still rejecting it. It is still disfranchising most cottage owners, who do have quite a stake in the community where their cottage is located. I think this is another reason for adopting the suggestion of the member for Erie to refer this bill back and have the government bring in a new bill which will cover the various points which have been raised here tonight.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Chairman, I particularly want to address a point that the parliamentary assistant, the member for Wilson Heights, raised

earlier. I think it is very important that this particular item be clarified. I have been in favour of the three-year term, as has this party, for some years. It is good to see that the government and the third party have finally caught up with that idea.

I respect the views of those people who feel they should continue with the two-year term because honest differences can be held by the members of this Legislature. However, I want to go back to the point that the parliamentary assistant raised earlier when he said that the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the body that represents 835 municipalities, unanimously approved the three-year term.

I think he misled this House unintentionally. He and everyone in this House knows that particular resolution came before AMO on a number of occasions over a number of years and that it passed only narrowly, with the representatives from the larger municipalities having the majority of votes. Certainly that is where most of the votes came from, although some votes came from the smaller municipalities, and it passed by fairly narrow margins in the last few years. At no time was there unanimous support for the resolution to change from two to three years.

I would give the member for Wilson Heights an opportunity to retract that statement because I think he misled the 400 people who were in the galleries, plus the people who might read Hansard.

Mr. Rotenberg: Mr. Chairman, I believe the words I said, certainly the words I intended to say to reply to the member for Waterloo North, were "virtually unanimously." The member is correct, this issue has been before AMO several times. The last time was at the convention of August 1980 where the vote was several hundred to six. That was the recorded vote at AMO. "Virtually unanimously" were the words I thought I used, the words I intended to say, and I believe the vote of several hundred to six is virtually unanimous. That was the vote the last time it was before AMO.

To reply very briefly to some of the legitimate questions that have been asked of me on this bill: To the member for Nipigon, no, the government would not support a split at the French River. We believe the people in northern Ontario are as entitled to the benefits of the three-year term as are the people of southern Ontario.

To the member for Erie, I would say it is not within my control as to when this other bill concerning municipal elections will be before the House. All I can say is that it is the intention

of the ministry to have it before the House this spring. It will have a number of technical amendments to the Municipal Act as well as something on election expenses. That is the intention of the ministry and, if it comes through the procedure properly, it will be before the House at that time.

The reason I believe this act should come ahead of any other act is that I think those municipal candidates who are now in office or who are thinking of running for office should have at a reasonably early time, as early as possible, the knowledge as to what the term of office will be for the next election so they can make their plans as to whether or not they will run. This is why, as a ministry of the government, we felt this bill should come forward as soon as possible so that will be settled in the minds of all candidates and potential candidates for the forthcoming November election, which is really only six months and several weeks away.

The member for Welland-Thorold indicated that a majority of the members spoke against the bill. I would point out to him that is inadvertently inaccurate. I just read the Hansard and counted—I may have been one out—and out of the 23 members who spoke some spoke for it, so to say a majority of members spoke against the bill is not quite correct. More important, as the member for Essex North pointed out, the House carried it without a dissenting vote.

Mr. Martel: But they have been whipped into line over there.

Mr. Rotenberg: Over there, too; none of your people voted against it either.

To the member for Essex North, I would say the government has indicated on many occasions that we feel there should be a uniform term throughout the province. I respect the suggestion the member has made about large and small municipalities but I would point out that at the last AMO convention, where there was virtually a unanimous vote, many people from the small municipalities supported the three-year term and we feel it should be a uniform term throughout the province.

Those, I think, are the answers to the questions asked of me.

Sections 1 agreed to.

Sections 2 to 4, inclusive, agreed to.

Bill 10 reported.

9 p.m.

McMICHAEL CANADIAN COLLECTION AMENDMENT ACT

Consideration of Bill 175, An Act to amend the McMichael Canadian Collection Act.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: Mr. Chairman, I have an opening statement. Under normal circumstances, I would have wanted to and would have made a brief, informal statement prior to going into the clause-by-clause discussion, which is really why we are here in the committee of the whole House tonight.

With the permission of the committee, I want to read a brief but, if I can use the words, reasonably formal statement, primarily because of some of the undertakings made at the committee on its last day where some commitments were made that I would make such a statement at this time.

Frankly, I just want to make sure that we do cover each of those important matters. In the normal course of affairs, I guess there will be opportunities for a less formal exchange as we get into the clause-by-clause discussion or before we get into it.

I want to commend the standing committee on social development for its thoughtful and constructive consideration of Bill 175 during February. I have become familiar with the record of the early part of those hearings and participated on the last day. I have been able to appreciate not only the detailed concerns of the members but also the spirit of co-operation among them as they concluded their deliberations.

In the standing committee a consensus was reached on a number of matters. For me, the most important consensus concerned the clear wish of both members and witnesses that the wounds suffered during a sad chapter in the history of a great Canadian cultural institution be healed and that an era of renewed understanding and constructiveness begin. In that connection, I can tell this committee that I share this wish and that a number of steps have been taken to fulfil it.

I am pleased to report to members of this committee that a memorandum of understanding between the government and the board, which I and the chairman of the board, Mr. J. Allyn Taylor, have recently signed, addresses the concerns of the standing committee. This memorandum, fashioned by ourselves and the board, has been in the making for more than a year. Following its approval by Management

Board of Cabinet, I will be tabling it in the Legislature.

Obviously this agreement of intent cannot prescribe the good will that harmony requires, but it can and does set out a framework for ensuring the fundamentally necessary communication among the board, the local community, the many interested citizens in Ontario and the government. This it does in several ways.

First, the parties agree that the trustees and the director are responsible for "fostering close and positive relations between the collection and the local community."

Second, the memorandum establishes information-sharing arrangements between the collection and the people of the province by making collection policies, practices and priorities available to the public and by making appropriate minutes of future board meetings available to the public as well.

Third, it formalizes existing information-sharing arrangements between the collection and the government by continuing the senior liaison committee and by prescribing the kinds of policy, practice, priority and financial information that will flow between the collection and the government.

In addition to these key provisions, designed to help ensure that the harmony and understanding we all want are achieved, the memorandum of understanding addresses several other matters.

Through this document, the ministry and the board agree that the conflict of interest guidelines that cabinet has approved for persons appointed to boards and agencies will be applied to the collection. The collection will also follow the intent of the guidelines for employees that are set out in the Ontario manual of administration; and the collection will establish and be guided by a code of ethics for trustees and staff which reflects generally accepted standards of conduct among professional art museums.

I might remind honourable members that last year the board adopted the code of ethics for gallery professionals and gallery governing bodies of the Canadian Art Museum Directors' Organization. However, the new director of the collection, Mr. Michael Bell, will also be presenting to the board for consideration in due course a statement of ethics specific to the needs of the McMichael Canadian Collection.

These are some of the relevant items forming the memorandum of understanding, which I believe will indicate clearly the government's intention and the board's desire that important

matters be addressed. This written memorandum is a tangible and constructive expression of the understanding that already exists.

Following this, I would like to mention some of the activity that has taken place since the standing committee's hearings, particularly with reference to concerns about the relationship of the McMichael Canadian Collection with the community of Kleinburg and the specialized communities it serves.

At the request of the board, the director is developing plans to establish an advisory committee to be a link with its various communities of interest. It will consist of representatives of art galleries and museums in Ontario, contemporary visual artists, scholars, art educators, the organization known as the Friends of the McMichael Collection and the local municipality. Mr. Bell expects to be meeting with individuals representing these communities in the near future to discuss his plans further and move towards the formation of this committee.

The mandate of the advisory committee will be to bring the concerns of the respective communities to the director's attention, to act as a sounding board for community concerns and to represent the concerns of the collection itself to the respective communities.

Mr. Bell has also had a meeting with the merchants of Kleinburg to involve them in the collection's future plans as they affect the business people of Kleinburg. The collection has engaged a marketing consultant, who has been asked to make recommendations that consider the Kleinburg community as a whole.

In a related area, Mr. Bell has been working with his own staff and has now completed a statement of objectives and expected results for the collection that he will be presenting to the board of trustees at its next meeting. All honourable members will recognize the importance of a clear statement of direction to govern the operations of any organization. These steps are an indication that the board and the new director are anxious to move forward in a positive and constructive way.

There was one other matter that was of considerable concern to members of the standing committee which I would like to address. It has to do with the question of what was referred to during the course of the hearing as "the anonymous allegations." I read the transcripts of the hearings where they refer to this question. Certainly I and others on this side share the concerns of the members.

Consequently, I undertook to consult with

my colleague the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) on the matter of the identity of the person who made the allegations to determine whether there has been a breach of any law, rule or regulation.

I have a letter. It is a short letter and, if I may, I will read it into the record. It is from the Attorney General in response to that question directed by me on behalf of the members of that committee.

I might say first, although we were not asked to do it, that I and members of the senior staff of my ministry undertook to satisfy ourselves that no one in our ministry was responsible for putting together these allegations. We did so and are satisfied there is no one on our staff who did that.

With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I will read the relevant two paragraphs from the letter from the Attorney General.

"On February 17, 1982, Mr. Renwick requested that the matter of the identity of the person who made certain 'anonymous allegations' against Mr. McMichael be turned over to me to determine whether there had been a breach of any law, rule or regulation. Senior crown counsel have reviewed transcripts of the committee hearings as well as correspondence delivered to the committee, copies attached."

That correspondence referred to the two letters that were discussed at the last committee hearing. Members present would remember those two letters.

"On the basis of that material, counsel have concluded that it does not disclose a breach of the Criminal Code or provincial statute. Accordingly, there is no basis at this time to ask the Ontario Provincial Police to investigate the source of the anonymous allegations. If any further information surfaces which discloses the commission of an offence, I will be happy to reopen this matter."

This letter was signed by the Attorney General.

9:10 p.m.

Before we move on to the bill which we are here to examine, I would like to say that the deliberations of the standing committee on social development have had a distinct influence on my own thinking about this Bill 175. As a result of that, I wish to speak to the matter of accumulating funds for purchasing new art works for the collection.

Since 1972, the McMichael Canadian Collection Act has provided for the establishment and maintenance of a special fund to be used only

for the purchase of art. Allocations or contributions to this fund come in one of four ways: from donations, from the sale of works of art belonging to the collection, from interest earned on the funds invested and from the net profits of the collection's gift shop, the latter being very significant in dollar figures.

As honourable members know, Bill 175 proposes to make the money from the gift shop profits available to the collection's general fund. That proposal is contained in section 3 of the bill that this committee now has before it. It was designed to permit the board access to money in the special fund so that the collection could contribute to the renovation program now under way at the gallery.

Also, the board had requested the flexibility to employ the gift shop funds in the best interests of the collection at any given time, whether that be for art acquisition, special projects such as the renovations, or expanded programming for the public—all part of maintaining and improving an important cultural resource.

At standing committee, however, members expressed concern about this clause in the bill and the use of gift shop funds previously designated for art acquisition. I have given this concern much consideration and have decided that the \$900,000 in principal and accumulated interest now in the fund, earned over the years primarily from the sale of items in the gift shop, should remain in that fund for art acquisition.

If the \$900,000 were to remain in the fund as an endowment, which is what I am proposing, and the funds invested at 15 per cent, say, there would be about \$135,000 available per year to purchase additional art. Of course, the capital would remain intact. Mr. Taylor and the collection's director, Michael Bell, assure me that such a permanent acquisition fund would be the envy of most galleries.

At the same time, I would not want to restrict the board from making its own decisions regarding the future wellbeing of the collection by stipulating how the collection should spend the profits from its gift shop, which amount to about \$200,000 per year. Most other galleries do have this flexibility, giving them the opportunity, for example, to develop important educational and outreach programs for the public that might not otherwise be possible or to contribute to necessary renovations.

For that reason, I wish to propose an amendment to section 3 of Bill 75, which will give the board the flexibility in the future to allocate the

funds from the gift shop to either the special fund or the general fund as it deems appropriate. I will move that amendment at the appropriate time.

I point out that gift shop proceeds could still be added to the special fund for art acquisitions should the board wish to do so, but money from the special fund could never be transferred to the general fund. I also hope, of course, that generous donors will add to the special fund over the years.

Finally, I want to speak to one last matter that was addressed at standing committee. This matter involves public access to documents that are related to the McMichael Canadian Collection Act as it will be amended by Bill 175.

During the standing committee's study, several members expressed the desire that various documents related to the McMichael Canadian Collection Act be pulled together in some kind of package. They were concerned that a number of documents referred to in the bill might not be readily accessible to the public.

To this end, we will be placing on deposit in the legislative library and in all of the depository public libraries around Ontario the 1965 agreement, the 1972 act, the 1980 agreement and other related documents, including the recent agreement between the board of trustees and Mr. and Mrs. McMichael.

In addition, arrangements have been made to include a note to readers of the Ontario Statutes Citor, which is the commercially produced companion to the Statutes of Ontario, when it refers to the passing of Bill 175. Unfortunately, I am informed that a note to readers, drawing attention to the deposited compendium, cannot be included in the statutes themselves. However, the ministry will ensure that reprints of the office consolidation of the McMichael Canadian Collection Act, as amended by Bill 175, will also contain this public notice.

At the same time, I acknowledge two other concerns of the members. One has to do with the number of documents that will be on record as comprising the law as it relates to the McMichael Canadian Collection. I am willing to consider the possibility of introducing new legislation at some future time that will consolidate and update the 1972 act.

I am also mindful of members' questions about the definition of the collection as the corporation, rather than the works of art themselves. I might point out that the McMichael Canadian Collection is made up of donations from many individuals. Members will recognize

that I am not permitted to introduce an amendment to Bill 175 that does not relate to its clauses. However, I believe that at such future time as we consider new legislation, we can look at this concern as well.

As I said at the outset, I found the study of Bill 175 that was conducted by the standing committee on social development to be most thoughtful. A number of concerns were raised which I undertook to address. I look forward to the balance of this committee of the whole House deliberation and to third reading of Bill 175.

Mr. Chairman: I thank the minister, and I thank all members of the Legislature for their indulgence in allowing him an opening statement in committee of the whole House. I presume at this time we will go into clause-by-clause consideration.

Mr. Edighoffer: Mr. Chairman, since there was a general statement, I wonder whether other members of the committee could make general comments on the statement as well.

Mr. Martel: Sure.

Mr. Conway: Undoubtedly.

Mr. Laughren: Absolutely.

Mr. Chairman: The House agrees.

Mr. Edighoffer: I had the opportunity in committee of congratulating the new minister on his appointment, and I was glad to hear the round of applause he received from all members in attendance tonight.

I must agree with the minister that there was considerable thoughtful discussion in the committee. From the statement and the proposed memorandum of understanding, I am certain that the minister has given much careful consideration to trying to resolve the problems that have been created in the past.

I appreciate receiving this information in advance. However, I can see why the minister found it somewhat of a problem to try to solve all the problems and difficulties that have been created at the McMichael Canadian Collection.

He did make mention of the other agreements; for instance, the 1965 agreement and the original 1972 act. I do not know whether the minister is aware that the Premier (Mr. Davis) wrote a letter to a great number of people in Ontario early in this year. It would be important to table it, because I recall that during the original discussion of the 1972 legislation it seemed to be most important and effective when the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) made considerable comment regarding the 1965

agreement. That was most helpful in discussions following that time.

With your indulgence, Mr. Chairman, I would like to place this letter on the record, because it sets out very clearly the Premier's thoughts on this legislation. I believe this letter went out to a number of people in Ontario.

9:20 p.m.

"Dear Mr. Blank:

"Your letter of December 14 to Mr. William Kelly, chairman of the PC Ontario Fund, has been brought to my attention. I am sorry to learn that you no longer feel you are able to support the PC Party.

"Permit me, if I may, to take this opportunity to respond to the concerns you have raised regarding the McMichael Canadian Collection. I hope that my comments will help to clear up any misunderstanding about the government's position.

"Firstly, I wish to point out that the Ontario government recognizes and shares the high regard which Ontarians hold for the McMichael collection and the building which houses this great collection of Canadian art. We are indeed fortunate that this unique and beautiful facility now belongs to the people of Ontario through the generous gift made by Mr. and Mrs. McMichael.

"However, I am concerned about the misinformation held by a number of people regarding the bill introduced in the Legislature on November 26 by the Minister of Culture and Recreation and the government's intent concerning the original agreement of 1965. My comments and the enclosed statement by Mr. Baetz hopefully will demonstrate to you that, contrary to recent allegations, the government does not intend to break its agreement with the McMichaels or destroy the character of the collection or the gallery building.

"As you are aware, an agreement was made between the McMichaels and the Ontario government when in 1965 Mr. and Mrs. McMichael gave their home, land and collection of art to the people of Ontario through the crown. This agreement made it clear the collection was to be preserved, maintained and developed for the public benefit. At that time, provision was made for the crown's agent, consisting of a five-member advisory committee, including the McMichaels, two others and a chairman, to manage and control the collection.

"By 1972, the collection had grown into a major public institution and it was felt that it would be managed best in the public interest by

a corporation which was created by An Act to establish the McMichael Canadian Collection. The act stipulated that a board of trustees, consisting of between five and nine members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, would be the responsible and accountable authority for the affairs of the collection. I also would add that Mr. and Mrs. McMichael were made members of the board for life. Furthermore, in the 1972 act, the intent and all the essential provisions of the 1965 agreement were restated.

"The amending bill presented by Mr. Baetz in the Legislature on November 26 will enshrine in statute several important matters and the amendments will help to ensure that the character of the collection is protected. I would also mention that just as the essential features of the collection were not undermined by the 1972 act, they will not be undermined by the bill to amend the act.

"A section of the amending act specifies for the first time in statute that the focus of the collection is the work of the Group of Seven, three of their contemporaries, the indigenous people and other people who have made contributions to the development of Canadian art. The bill states that works of art given to the collection cannot be sold without the donor's consent. A new position has been created by the amending act of founder director-emeritus and stipulates that Mr. McMichael occupy that position. Also the act will allow the collection to use revenues from its gift shop for general purposes.

"I should like to point out that under the 1972 act, paintings donated to the collection cannot be sold if an agreement between the donor and the collection prohibits such a sale. The amending act further limits the sale of art works donated to the collection, because they will always require the consent of the donor, unless an agreement stipulated otherwise.

"As I am sure you can appreciate, the building which houses this art collection, as a public gallery, must contain all the necessary measures to maintain the safety of the public and the collection from possibilities of fire and also to conserve the collection itself. In addition, there is a need to make all sections of the building accessible to disabled people so that they may enjoy the great cultural facility. Work has commenced to implement these measures, but, as Mr. Baetz has indicated, and contrary to reports, the public may rest assured that no changes will be made to the building which are

not compatible with its aesthetic character. Additions and modifications will use the same materials as those from which the building originally was constructed.

"It would appear from the letters directed to me that a great deal of the misunderstanding over matters relating to the collection has arisen from an article by Mr. Pierre Berton which appeared in the *Globe and Mail* on November 17. Therefore, I have enclosed for your information a copy of the response to this article which was prepared by trustees of the collection.

"I realize your comments were made in genuine concern for our party and for the government and I hope you will accept my response as having been made in similar good faith.

"Sincerely, William G. Davis."

I wanted to put that on the record, because no doubt when further amendments to this bill come forward, this information will be helpful.

I was interested in hearing the minister's comments regarding the allegations we referred to in committee. I am glad to hear that his senior ministry officials have looked into the matter and have stated they feel no one from the ministry produced that information.

From the comments of the Attorney General that were read, I have to say I am not quite clear really as to whether there was much of a study. The minister has stated they looked over the minutes of the committee, and I wonder whether they did anything or asked any questions of any members of his ministry. I will let the member for Riverdale carry that one further.

I am concerned about the bill generally. The minister did say he hoped that in the near future he might be able to bring in another complete act. I certainly hope he will, because he talked of the agreement in 1965 and about the bill in 1972, when everyone thought there was an agreement as well. Then he talked about the amendment in 1981, and included in that amendment we now have an agreement dated in 1980, signed by the chairman of the board and Mr. McMichael. We will have a memorandum of understanding signed by the minister and the board of trustees. What about the agreement signed January 27, 1982, by Mr. and Mrs. McMichael and the board of trustees?

I appreciate that the minister sent over the proposed memorandum of understanding. I do not know how he wishes to handle that. I appreciate that it has not been tabled. I know there are a lot of questions in there that should

be dealt with, and I will leave it in the hands of the chairman as to whether we can ask questions during committee.

The Deputy Chairman: The member for Riverdale.

[Applause]

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Chairman, like the course of this bill, I think it is beginning to go on too long.

I want to make a couple of comments to the minister simply in response to his statement. The House should know that had it not been for the fortuitous event of a shift of cabinet responsibilities, this solution to the problem, if I can dignify it by that term, would never have come about. I suggest to the government that if it ever has another sensitive issue to bring before the assembly, it does not entrust it to the minister who originally introduced this bill into the House.

Anybody who bothered to read the proceedings of the committee dealing with this bill during the month of February would understand that the committee was totally immersed in an insoluble problem when the committee recessed on February 4. The shift in cabinet responsibilities took place, we reconvened on February 17 and the new minister, with the light which he always shows, was able to come to the committee and satisfy, I believe, in a very untidy and unhappy situation, its major concerns.

I do not know, but I believe and sense that the bill in substance solves the major concerns of the original donors of the collection to the province. I believe that to be the case. I emphasize that I have no special knowledge about it one way or the other.

9:30 p.m.

It is sufficient to say that in a very untidy result the minister has rescued it by the statement he made in the House this evening and by the draft at least of the memorandum of understanding he showed to my colleague the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) and myself, and I am sure to the member for Perth (Mr. Edighoffer), related to the relationship in defined terms between the ministry itself and the collection, setting out their mutual responsibilities and obligations. That in itself is an immense step forward in the governance of this most important collection and the interests of the people of the province.

I want to emphasize, in case members of the assembly were not aware of it, that the memorandum of understanding and any subsequent

revisions of that memorandum will be tabled in the Legislature by the minister as and when they occur, so the assembly will be informed of any basic changes or any suggested changes in the arrangements of the mutual sharing of responsibilities. But the government of Her Majesty the Queen in right of the province of Ontario as the owner of the collection and the role of the board of the collection, the incorporated body whose duty as agent is to manage and look after the affairs of the collection, have very vital and important connections with this assembly.

The memorandum of understanding in the form I have seen it specifically states the minister will be responsible to this assembly and accountable to this assembly for the collection. I think the protection of the collection, the protection of the original donors of the collection, Robert and Signe McMichael, are, as best we can, solved by the statement made by the minister, the memorandum of understanding, and the failings of the legislation itself will, because of the minister's statement, in due course be rectified.

I could pick and choose. I could say tonight, if the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) was here, that his letter was a most unsatisfactory response to the concern of the members of the committee expressed in the committee. It was almost to say, "I want as Attorney General to wash my hands of this question." I will deal with that on another occasion. I am certainly not going to cavil about the particular way in which the Attorney General deals with serious matters that are referred to him by the ministry for consideration. I consider that response to be a totally inadequate response, not on behalf of the minister who fulfilled his undertaking, but in respect of the obligation of the Attorney General to deal with serious matters that were of concern to members of the committee.

As I say, I am not pretending for one single moment to cavil at any great length about all the past history that is involved in this. I want personally to thank the minister for the evident good faith with which he tried to cover in his statement to the House this evening all the concerns, as best we could express them in the committee, in order that this particular sorry tale could come to some reasonable end with anticipation that some good might come out of it. I do believe that the exercise in the committee of hearing the witnesses, those who came because they were in the employ of the ministry or in the employ of the collection, those who came because of their public interest in it and

gave their views to the committee, did much to lay the groundwork of a very good future for the McMichael collection as an important ornament in the ownership of the government of this province.

I am prepared to accept the amendment proposed by the minister with respect to the establishment of the existing amount at present standing to the credit of the account, mainly from the sales in the gift shop, as a continuing endowment to be used for the purpose of purchase of other works of art. With that very reasonable and sensible compromise of a difficult problem I believe there will be some responsibility on the board of directors of the collection to enhance the quality of the collection by acquiring other works of art from time to time with their own funds.

There are many items that one could rehash. However, I am quite happy to see the bill speedily pass through the committee and become the law of the province governing that collection.

Mr. Hodgson: As the member for the area I would like to say a couple of words. First, I congratulate the new minister on the excellent public relations job he is doing. Second, I cannot let this opportunity pass without referring to amount of effort the former minister—and nobody knows that better than this member as I was in his office with delegations many times—put forth to try to resolve this problem. Whether the members of this Legislature believe it or not, I know at firsthand that he did his very best to solve the problem of the McMichael Canadian Collection.

Mr. Conway: We have some firsthand evidence of just how hard he worked on some of those items.

Mr. Hodgson: I wonder if the member remembers what he said this afternoon about no more heckling.

I gave a full account of the McMichael Canadian Collection at Kleinburg two weeks ago tonight in my speech in the throne speech debate, so I will not go into that. I only ask one thing of the minister before I can support the bill that is put before us tonight and that is something that I asked for in the committee hearings last February, namely, that a member and resident of the Kleinburg community be appointed as a director of the McMichael gallery.

The McMichael gallery has the second largest attendance of any gallery in the whole of Canada. I think it fitting that someone from the

Kleinburg community, in addition to Mr. and Mrs. Robert McMichael, who have done an excellent job and been so generous, be on that board. In that way Kleinburg can be kept informed of everything that affects the collection and the operation of the gallery. If the minister can give me that assurance, I can support this bill wholeheartedly.

Mr. Conway: I want to say a few words about the bill before us and to join with my colleagues the member for Perth and the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) in extending best wishes to the new Minister of Citizenship and Culture. It is hard to add to the excellent remarks of the member for Riverdale, who has pointed out that after a protracted and acrimonious public debate, and an even more acrimonious private debate, after the new minister's appointment in early February the matter was quickly resolved.

I said in the committee, and I will repeat it tonight, that in my seven years here as a member, prior to the debate on Bill 175, I had no legislative interface, to use that marvellous bureaucratic word, with our cultural community. Bill 175 gave me the first such interface and I must say it was a truly remarkable set of hearings.

9:40 p.m.

I was reminded of just what kind of hearings those were a few days ago when an unmarked brown envelope arrived in my office containing that charming polemic by Sol Littman, entitled *Controversy at the McMichael Gallery*, from the Canadian Forum of March 1982. Of course, it was unsigned. It just struck me as a fitting way to end this wretched, rotten, miserable, mean-spirited business.

I do not really know any more today about some of the issues that interested me than I did when I started, but like Pontius Pilate, I am quite anxious to wash my hands of this entire rotten business in the hope that the new bill, the new spirit and the new minister have brought about a new order that will give this province a continued and very successful operation at Kleinburg. Certainly I want to wish the minister all the best in trying to repair what internally must be a very unfortunate situation. I just want to conclude my remarks tonight in that connection.

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Chairman, I must say that serving on that particular committee was a remarkable experience. I had never served on a committee before in which there was so little

sense of partisanship going into it. There was a remarkable experience the very first day of the committee when it was announced that an agreement had been signed by the McMichaels, the board and the ministry, dated the end of January or the first of February, which put the committee hearings in a totally different light. For a few hours there was debate in the committee as to what extent we should proceed and what the debate would be about. I was very pleased that the committee did continue to debate the issue and to call witnesses because I think it was a very interesting process in which people came and expressed their views on what, as the member for Renfrew North has said, was a sorry state.

I prefer not to debate the antics of the former minister because I think it does not add to the debate this evening or to the way in which we regard this new bill. I am concerned, however, about the new bill. I do not think I have ever seen a piece of legislation in the 10-plus years I have been here which is built on sand in the way this is. It is built on agreements and memoranda. I do not know of any other such legislation. Perhaps there is other legislation which has been written the same way and I am just not aware of it. My secret hope all along was that the minister would be able to bring in a bill which wiped the slate clean and presented us with a bill that dealt with the McMichael Canadian Collection and all the matters that surrounded its entirety. That would be very nice.

I know that in his statement the minister has said he hopes that in the future there will be a revised bill which will do it all, but I am very unhappy with the way in which this bill is constructed. I am very unhappy with the references to matters other than the statutes. I defy anyone to pick up the minister's statement which he read tonight and make sense out of the references back to other matters. In terms of the way we pass legislation in this chamber, that to me is simply intolerable. I wish very much that we did not have to go through that because I think it is grossly unfair to anyone who wants to pursue the statute dealing with the McMichael collection.

There is no question whatsoever about people's affection for the McMichael collection. It is a remarkable collection and perhaps even more remarkable is the affection people feel towards that collection. There are not many threads running through Ontario about which most of us feel very strongly. The McMichael collection is one of them. I suspect that the

ministers of the crown were surprised at the groundswell of support across Ontario for the collection when people felt it was threatened. I think that bodes very well for culture in this province.

As I stated some 10 years ago when the original bill was debated, my wish is that we could make this kind of collection more accessible to more people in more regions of the province. At that time I said, almost whimsically, we should launch a campaign of "art in a cart" and take it across Ontario. I still wish this kind of collection could be accessible to people in the most remote areas of Ontario because, after all, we are proud of those remote areas and we should make the people who live in those areas proud of their heritage and proud of the culture and history that is represented by the McMichael collection. It is one of those things that supercedes all sorts of other commitments that people have to Ontario.

I would urge the minister to take a long, hard look at all the memoranda, the agreements, the previous legislation and so forth, and expedite the bringing before this chamber of a comprehensive piece of legislation that will deal with the McMichael collection in a way that will wipe the slate clean, that will put the McMichael collection in the form of a statute that we can all be proud of, and that people across Ontario will be able to pick up, read and comprehend.

Members of the Legislature have an inside knowledge of legislation and how it works, but to have that statement by the minister, which says more than the bill does, is in itself fundamentally wrong. It is wrong when the piece of legislation does not tell us as much as what the bill is based on tells us. When a statement to a bill tells us more historically and probably legally than the bill itself, then there is something wrong with that kind of draftsmanship. I hope that the minister without too much delay will be able to bring a new bill before us either in this session or next session.

Mr. O'Neil: Mr. Chairman, I think we would be remiss if we did not mention a little more about what went on before this bill was brought in this evening. I have noticed a lot of members here tonight have said they do not want to get into that, but I must say that it should serve as a bit of a warning to the minister. He should have better public relations than did the previous minister with the people of this province, with ministry staff and with the people of this Legislature. I believe that because of the problems we encountered in the last part of 1981 a great deal

of damage has been done to people in the arts. The minister will need good public relations to make sure that people understand what this new bill is going to do and what is going to happen at Kleinburg.

Also, he will have to do something to encourage people who are ready to donate works of art and money for the purchase of such items. Not only the minister, but the government and the Premier (Mr. Davis) should never have let this go to the stage where it caused concern throughout this province. I and other members had people calling and wondering what the government was trying to do, whether these art objects were going to be sold, whether they were in danger and about all of the problems concerned with the situation.

9:50 p.m.

I wonder how it reached the position where we had the fighting we did among the people that were at Kleinburg, why these people were not talking to one another, why the previous minister and the Premier let things get to the stage they did. When it came to the committee, everything seemed to be solved. There was an agreement. I sometimes wonder about the pressure that must have been on those people and the health problems it must have caused. I hope the minister will approach this in a better way and that he will never let things get to the position they ended up in at that gallery.

A lot of blame should be placed not only on the management there, and possibly the McMichaels, but also on this government. If there were problems concerning humidity, fire regulations, access, billing and all these other things, why did it take so long to solve them? Why were solutions to these things not suggested before it all came to light?

We have the letter that was read this evening by the member about the Premier writing to try to clear up all these problems—

Interjections.

Mr. O'Neil: It was the Premier who wrote the letter. It was written on the Premier's letterhead, talking about donations to the Conservative Party. I would like a couple of comments from the minister on that.

I know there has been some concern shown by some of the other members in both of these parties on the investigation that was carried out. Again, I would like some comments from the minister regarding just how far the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) investigated this.

There was that kind of pressure brought on

the McMichaels. They do not lack blame because there were problems there. I realize what was going on between them and the board, but the problems should never have gone to the point they did. I hope the minister will never again let something like that happen as far as this collection is concerned.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Chairman, I am sure you would be very disappointed, given this type of legislation, if you did not get a word from one of the members representing that great area of Ottawa, especially involving something as important as the arts and the McMichael collection.

I did not have the benefit of listening to some of the comments on this legislation of my colleagues who preceded me. I apologize for that. Unfortunately, I was detained on another item of very important legislative business. You know how it is, Mr. Chairman; we have to share ourselves. When demands are made on certain people's limited time, we have to do the best we can to adjust to the circumstances. If I am repetitious at times, I hope members will bear with me as I make my comments about this situation.

I want to say to the minister that we have not had a chance to exchange pleasantries or even in-depth ideas about the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture. I am sure the minister fully understands the political sensitivities of this type of ministry and that the member for Ottawa West (Mr. Baetz), who preceded him in this portfolio, will have pointed out to him the various pitfalls and land mines that can exist in a portfolio that would appear on the surface to be as bland as this one.

In any event, the former minister managed to take the ministry and the government to the brink of disaster in a ministry that everybody else thought was a political sinecure and one where it was impossible to get into any difficulties. I say to the present minister that I am sure he will not repeat these unfortunate incidents.

I can recall travelling with the minister on the constitutional committee. You will be interested to know this, Mr. Chairman. I can recall going to that great province of Alberta. You will recall at that time, as a private member, the minister made some comments which sort of touched or affected the sensitivities of our friends in Alberta. I recall that merited the minister a return engagement to the province—

Mr. Conway: What did he call them?

Mr. Roy: The member for Renfrew North

asks, "What did he call them?" I will have to rely on his wealth of information—

Mr. Conway: Some things are not parliamentary.

Mr. Roy: I do not know. Maybe my friends can help me. I do not know what he called them, but in any event, given those circumstances this was good experience for the minister. Now when he is Minister of Citizenship and Culture he will be much more sensitive in responding to the difficulties which may happen in the field of the arts.

I want to join the member for Quinte (Mr. O'Neil), whom I had the benefit of mentioning, in saying a couple of things that I found very unfortunate in this whole McMichael incident. The first one was the shabby treatment that was given to this individual.

I know that his statement talks about a memorandum of agreement. Those of us who sat on the committee witnessed this courtroom door agreement that was arrived at on the morning the committee was to start. All at once there was a memorandum of agreement. Given the pressure that the McMichaels were subjected to in this whole incident, it is no small wonder that they decided to come to some form of agreement and not get involved in the political mud throwing that was going to occur in this particular committee.

The whole incident was unfortunate in the sense that whether the McMichaels in some way contributed to the circumstances by some administrative deficiencies or otherwise, they did not deserve the treatment they received from the government and from the minister. I say this very sincerely, because it shocked us as members of the committee to see the two individuals who had made a gift of such largess, subsequently, a few years down the line, subjected to the type of innuendo and the type of information that was released by we do not know whom.

We asked who had released it, Mr. Chairman. I do not know if you participated in the deliberations of the committee. We asked at that time who would release this information. In any event, the result of this whole unfortunate incident was that the reputation, the character and the graciousness of the whole gift was challenged. The integrity of these individuals was challenged in the sense that it was suggested they had personally benefited through some dealings as administrators of this gallery. The result was the reputation of these fine people was tarnished.

That is an injustice which is irreparable. I

think members have had sufficient experience in a variety of fields to know that reputation is something that is difficult to gain and, unfortunately, when it is lost it is very difficult to regain.

Given those circumstances, I found it very unfortunate, and the member for Quinte mentioned the fact, that this seemed to affect the McMichaels physically and mentally. I do not know these people personally, but over the few months that the dispute took place I had occasion to witness the very unfortunate incident and the effect it had on the health of these individuals. I think it was very unfortunate indeed.

I trust this minister will understand, and those of us who are talking about the very unfortunate happenings that took place involving the minister and the McMichaels should undertake to ensure this is something that should not be repeated. Not only is it because it is uncharitable to the people involved, but certainly it is not a good precedent to have for future donors who want to give to the government, who want to participate in the arts and face the risk, somewhere down the line, that they will be tarnished, as these people were.

10 p.m.

These comments must go on the record. It seems to me that what was most cynical about the allegations against the McMichaels is that, given some of the agreements we suspect have taken place between donors and the Ontario Heritage Foundation, and some of the fine and very advantageous benefits received by the donors in some of these cases—I do not intend to name names, but I recall during the discussion of the committee that we asked—

Mr. Nixon: What about Mr. Firestone?

Mr. Roy: My colleague from Brant-Oxford-Norfolk mentions the Firestone collection. We recall during the deliberations of the committee we asked to see the memorandum of agreement between Firestone and the Ontario Heritage Foundation and to my knowledge it was never produced. We have to ask why. Is it just too sweet a deal? What is the risk or problem with producing this particular agreement?

I would like to compare that agreement with the agreement the McMichaels made. At the time the McMichael gift was made there was no tax benefit accruing provincially to these people. Yet they were—

Mr. Nixon: They were not taking any advantage.

Mr. Roy: That is right. Further down the line, they were the ones who were alleged to have had some special tax benefit, or to have taken advantage of some sale of paintings, when they got no tax benefit at the time the gift was made. There were no shenanigans in their gift. It was straightforward. It was sincere. It was honest. It was a tremendous gift to Ontario and to Canada.

That they should be treated this way is something that should not have happened and something that is irreparable. I trust the minister is seeing to it, from the conduct of his predecessor and the conduct of the government towards these people, that such things do not happen again.

The other matter we asked about and to my knowledge never received any response to at the time of the committee was what type of investigation had been made as to how the information had been released against McMichael by someone within the ministry. I was under the impression when this information first came out—and it was raised by our former leader, Mr. Smith, the former member for Hamilton West—that the information was being released by the then Minister of Culture and Recreation (Mr. Baetz), yet he denied in committee that any such information was released.

I was under the impression that the people on the board of the McMichael foundation, such as the chairman, Mr. Allyn Taylor, were the ones releasing this information that was so destructive and so harmful to the McMichaels. They denied this and I believe them. I believe Mr. Taylor and I believe the minister when he said, "No, I did not deliberately release this information." When we inquired as to how the information had got out, one would think that both the foundation and the ministry would be concerned about such damaging information, most of which was unfounded.

I can recall that information apparently circulating within the Progressive Conservative caucus. Information was being exchanged about what the McMichaels were up to, involving totem poles out in British Columbia and that sort of thing. Apparently both these sources denied releasing the information and yet no real effort was made to find out where the information came from.

There was no police investigation, and as far as I know there was no internal investigation by the ministry. One must conclude that neither the ministry nor the board evidenced much enthusiasm for determining the source of the information, which leads to the assumption that

they were not overly concerned about the information so damaging to the McMichaels. I find that unfortunate. In my opinion the acting minister and the government were derelict in their duty in not persisting in their pursuit of the source of that information.

As a final comment I want to say to the minister, given the circumstances and history of this legislation, he could have what I would consider to be a better bill than the one he has now, which involves a memorandum of agreement and a further memorandum of agreement. It seems to me the way to have solid and lasting legislation would be to have everything incorporated in legislation rather than in memorandums of agreement which creates loose ends and that is not the best situation to be in.

There should be a piece of legislation. Then, if necessary, he can issue regulations to the legislation. I think he could have done better than this sort of hotchpotch. I know he was trying to work out some form of agreement, but having worked as hard as he has and having reached an agreement, he could have incorporated it into legislation. It is not good draftsmanship to have legislation by memorandums of agreement. That is not a neat and correct way to do things.

Having made these few comments, I want to wish the minister well in his new portfolio. I hope our remarks will be accepted in the spirit in which they were made, that is, out of sincere concern for the individuals who were hurt.

It is never a fair fight when individuals as sincere and at times as naive as the McMichaels are taking on government, especially this government. Say what you will about the Conservative Party of Ontario, you fellows know how to get into a cat fight and when you want to play dirty you can play as dirty as anyone.

Mr. Brandt: We have got heart.

Mr. Roy: You did not show much heart in that situation. You were heartless.

Mr. Brandt: You can learn.

Mr. Roy: The member for Sarnia says we can learn. That is the type of lesson I would not want to learn. I think I can play in the political process without learning shabby and underhanded tactics. If the member takes pride in what took place with the McMichaels he goes down in my opinion, because I would not have thought he could be proud of an incident like that.

The Minister of Agriculture and Food made a remark that I missed. All I can say to him is that

he should be back in the Ministry of Health. They need him there and the doctors of the province need him.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: You didn't know a good thing when you had it.

Mr. Roy: We respected and believed him when he was in Health.

Mr. Epp: Don't pour it on too much. First thing you know, he will be running for the leadership.

Mr. Roy: For the leadership—

Mr. Chairman: Let us get back to the bill for a little bit.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Chairman, you know the respect I have for the chair, especially when you are in the chair.

Mr. Chairman: Especially because I am a lawyer also.

10:10 p.m.

Mr. Roy: Given your admonition, I am going to sit down—

Mr. Chairman: Not on my account, please.

Mr. Roy: I just say to the minister I would still like to see the agreement between Firestone and the Ontario Heritage Foundation—did we have that? Maybe the minister can correct me, but I thought we never saw it. I would still like to see it.

I trust that future donors, people who will make such gifts to the province, will receive—

Mr. Conway: Like the member for Ottawa East.

Mr. Roy: Someone dares to mention my name in the same category as the McMichaels and the Firestones.

Mr. Nixon: If you had the Roy collection, you would have something.

Mr. Roy: Yes. It is very modest. My friends are being very cynical.

Mr. Nixon: It surpasses Morty Shulman's.

Mr. Roy: I feel like St. Peter when he was invited to the table for the Last Supper by Christ. He had to decline. I am bashful that my modest collection is compared to the Firestone and the McMichael collections.

Mr. Nixon: That is a mixed metaphor if I ever heard one.

Mr. Roy: The only way they would accept my gift would be if there was a Liberal government at Queen's Park. I take great interest in the arts and maybe some day I can make some modest contribution. If that should happen, having

shown such largess I trust I would not be treated in the way the unfortunate McMichaels were treated. I think the minister should have a policy to encourage donors and not discourage them with this type of conduct.

Mr. Chairman: I set an unfortunate precedent by allowing the minister an opening statement, because everyone has been talking and we have not gone through one section yet.

Sections 1 and 2 agreed to.

On section 3:

Mr. Chairman: Mr. McCaffrey moves that section 3 of the bill be amended by adding thereto the following subsection:

“(2) section 9 of the said act is amended by adding thereto the following subsection:

“The net profits of the corporation from the sale of books, art reproductions, copyrights, artefacts and other wares may be paid into and become part of the special fund or the general fund, and where such net profits are paid into the general fund, any part of the net profits may be transferred from the general fund to the special fund as the board may determine.”

Motion agreed to.

Section 3, as amended, agreed to.

Sections 4 to 7, inclusive, agreed to.

Bill 175, as amended, reported.

On motion by Mr. Cureatz, the committee of the whole House reported one bill with amendment and one bill without amendment.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: Mr. Speaker, with your indulgence, you know my sensitivity to the standing rules, rules of order and all these kinds of things. With regard to the bill we have just talked about while in committee of the whole, has it had third reading or was I supposed to move third reading? How does that happen?

Assistant Clerk: It goes on the Order Paper.

Mr. Nixon: It awaits. It's going to go on the Order Paper.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: Fine. Perhaps somebody would be good enough to send me a copy of the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture bill.

Mr. Roy: You don't know it by heart?

Mr. Nixon: You have six staff members there, all getting overtime.

Mr. Roy: Isn't it annoying? They supply you with a limousine and everything else, but no copy of the bill.

MINISTRY OF CITIZENSHIP AND CULTURE ACT

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey moved second reading of Bill 36, An Act to establish the Ministry of

Citizenship and Culture.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: Mr. Speaker, I understand that some members have some comments they would like to make on the opportunity we are provided with in the establishment of the new ministry. For two reasons, primarily because I have no formal statement, I am not prepared to go into anything in any length—I do not want to pre-empt anybody—but I assume that someone, maybe my opposition critic the member for Downsview (Mr. Di Santo), is prepared to do so.

I would like to take this opportunity to say that this ministry is one that, needless to say, I am extraordinarily excited about. The ministry has a new name, the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, and while I think it would not need to be said to anybody in this assembly, it is important that we remember that there is nothing really new about the ministry.

I refer in particular to the “citizenship” part of the title. As members well know, the citizenship and multiculturalism division has been a very central part of the former Ministry of Culture and Recreation since its inception. Indeed, the citizenship and multiculturalism division has its roots well back before the establishment of the former Ministry of Culture and Recreation, I think residing within the Ministry of Education. I just want to emphasize that, because while I think we know here that this is not “a new ministry,” we have just taken advantage of the ministry change to give quite proper focus to the good work that has been done by this division over its very many years.

The bill has a statement of functions, as I guess all bills or acts have when they establish a new ministry. I will not read those, but they refer to the objectives, or the mandate if I can call it that, of the ministry. I would suspect that my critics would use the four goals or mandates of the ministry to make some comments or some observations. I look forward to hearing their views on the bill and, if time permits, I would have some response to it.

Mr. O'Neil: Mr. Speaker, I guess there is really not too much we can do to criticize this extensively yet.

Mr. Nixon: We like the minister.

Mr. O'Neil: Well, we like the minister at present, but we will just have to see what sort of a job he does. I think that in the past there has been some neglect of both the citizenship end of this part of the ministry and the cultural end. I

know that I and many of our colleagues are not really that impressed with the attention that was given to both the cultural and the citizenship ends. We look forward to seeing what new initiatives both the minister and his staff take in this new ministry. We wish him luck. We will be keeping an eye on things.

One thing on which I would like to ask the minister to make a comment is whether there will be an annual report to the Legislature on this. I do not notice any portion in the bill concerning that.

As I say, we look forward to seeing what steps the minister takes, and we shall certainly be seeing that our party makes a great contribution to the debate to see that he and his ministry staff are doing the job they should in both the citizenship and cultural fields.

10:20 p.m.

Mr. Di Santo: Mr. Speaker, I should like to enter the debate on Bill 36, because we do not think we are going to support this bill. That has nothing to do with the minister, because we were most pleased that he was appointed minister. I think, if he had not had his ministry amputated and dismembered, he would have done a very good job, certainly a better job than his predecessor did. But we cannot accept the government playing football and creating these ministries only for expediency, only for the purpose of internal reorganizations of the portfolios and to keep some ministers busy with their jobs in the cabinet. We think that culture and recreation are two very important areas, and there is a need on the part of the government to have a very strong ministry.

I want to remind the members that in 1974, when the Ministry of Culture and Recreation was created, the Premier (Mr. Davis) explained why the two areas of culture and recreation were closely related and why there was a need to have one ministry. I should like to quote from the statement the Premier read in the House. We know that when the Premier reads statements prepared for him, he speaks more seriously than when he speaks the way he did today, with levity, giving the impression he is addressing the Boy Scouts of Brampton.

On December 17, 1974, the Premier said: "This new ministry is in response to the significant role which culture and recreation play in enhancing the quality of life and good citizenship. Although the government of this province has long provided a variety of cultural and recreational programs, the time has now come

to bring them together within a single ministry for added emphasis.

"Underlying the priority the government attaches to this field is our firm conviction that individual and community involvement in the process of cultural and recreational development contributes to full and equal citizenship. The objectives of the new ministry, then, will focus on ways in which culture and recreation can enhance the general quality of life in our province. development contributes to full and equal citizenship. The objectives of the new ministry, then, will focus on ways in which culture and recreation can enhance the general quality of life in our province.

"Within this basic philosophy, the ministry's programs will be directed to three distinct areas. First, the ministry will be responsible for assisting in preserving and enhancing our cultural heritage, including archaeological and historical sites, our art galleries and so on. Emphasis will be given to our diversity of cultural traditions and backgrounds, and programs geared towards maintaining the vitality of our multicultural society will be a significant part of the new ministry.

"Secondly, the ministry will have special responsibility to promote access to the benefits of citizenship for both new and Ontario-born residents alike, including the opportunity to take part in sports and recreation programs and to enjoy access to the cultural products of past and present generations. Because culture and recreation have no meaning if they cannot be shared and enjoyed by individuals, special attention will be focused on increasing public involvement, participation and enjoyment of these activities."

This was the premise on which the government of Ontario in 1974 based its decision to set up a new Ministry of Culture and Recreation. Of course, that ministry was the result of a long process that took place in Ontario over more than three decades, as a matter of fact since before the war, when the governments of Ontario and of Canada tried to define the role of the government in the recreation area because for many years recreation had been the private domain of the individual. The government had no role in recreation, but ever since the 1940s there was a movement that required more involvement on the part of the government.

During the war years, many Canadians went to war and all at once the governments of Canada and of Ontario realized that fitness was an important part of the training of the soldiers.

When they came back, the government of Ontario thought that fitness was one of the permanent features of our society, especially in relation to young people. After many attempts, the government created a youth secretariat to deal specifically with the issues of recreation and fitness.

As the members will remember, at the federal level also the government set up a fitness and amateur sport department which had a short life but was in a way a recognition on the part of the federal government that there was a need for co-ordination in that area.

The reason we oppose this bill is that we think both areas are intrinsically connected, that one cannot separate the recreational and cultural aspects of the ministry and that unless there is accord on the part of the government in the delivery of services we will be confronted with all kinds of confusion and ambiguity.

To give one example, right now the organizations in the province involved in the recreational area are questioning which ministry they will apply to under regulation 200; and there are some organizations which are asking that libraries, for instance, should be under the Ministry of Recreation and Tourism, while we know that under Bill 36, which we are debating, the Public Libraries Act will be administered by this ministry.

Not only for practical purposes, but also in terms of general strategy in the area of culture and the delivery of those recreational activities which have a high cultural content, we think the ministry should not have been dismembered and that, especially at this time, we should have had a Ministry of Culture and Recreation the way we had before.

10:30 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: I direct the honourable member's attention to the clock.

On motion by Mr. Di Santo, the debate was adjourned.

COMPENSATION FOR UFFI HOME OWNERS

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to standing order 28, the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) has given notice of his dissatisfaction with the answer to his question given by the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Ashe) concerning urea formaldehyde foam insulation. I am prepared to listen to the honourable member for a period of five minutes, and the minister may have five minutes, if he so desires, to reply.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, for the past 10 months, the owners of homes with urea formaldehyde foam insulation outside of this House — and a lot of them are in it tonight — and I in this House have repeatedly asked the minister to reduce the assessments on UFFI houses in line with the reduction in their value owing to UFFI. Over and over again the minister has said “no,” and his answers get more bizarre, culminating with the one last Friday, which is the reason for this debate this evening.

He knows very well that the Assessment Act requires his ministry to apply an assessment annually on all property at its market or real value and in fair relationship to other property. As minister, that is his responsibility. There can be no question about that. When he ignores it, he is breaking his own law. Yet that is exactly what he is doing with respect to UFFI homes. Just look at the absurdity of his position.

In reply to one of my numerous requests for a reduction in assessment, he said again by letter of January 20, 1982, what he had been saying since last June. I quote, “I do acknowledge that the presence of UFFI can have an effect on property value.” Then he went on to refuse to make any adjustments because, as he says, he does not have enough sales information on which to make a judgement as to the amount of reduction. Ironically, in the same letter, he outlines the information the owner should provide to the court of revision so it can arrive at a just reduction.

What he is really saying is that he knows what information is needed, but he is telling the home owners to get it, when it was his obligation to seek it out and apply it in assessing the properties before the roll was closed. They should never have had to appeal to the court of revision.

Apart from him expecting lay home owners to provide the information he should seek out, the absurdity of his arguments against reducing assessments are demonstrated in other ways. Last Thursday, he rejected my request for a 20 per cent reduction on all UFFI home assessments, such as New Brunswick has instituted, because he said it was not fair to all UFFI home owners. He said some homes should have larger reductions than others, and he would not impose that degree of unfairness. I ask him what his idea of fairness is: to take no initiative to give a reduction to anyone? “Let them appeal” is his answer.

What does this mean, in fairness? We checked the numbers of UFFI home owners who have

appealed. We checked the municipalities of Brant county, Kitchener-Waterloo region, London, Niagara region, Sudbury, Thunder Bay and the Metro municipalities of Etobicoke, York, North York, Scarborough and East York, as well as Windsor, about 30 or 40 per cent of the population of this province.

In these municipalities, total requests for tests on UFFI homes number 4,035, indicating known UFFI homes. Yet only 1,599 or 39 per cent appealed their assessments. In fact, the low percentage of those appealing is much worse than that, because, of home owners requesting tests, the known houses represent not more than 50 per cent of the total UFFI homes. Thus, only one out of four or five UFFI home owners has appealed.

Even if the assessment courts allow the appeals that are before them, 75 or 80 per cent of all UFFI home owners will pay taxes this year as if their properties were at full value without UFFI. That is the minister's idea of fairness.

Of course, he could do as he did for the Toronto home owners, who had improvements on their properties, even though they had not appealed their assessments. He is willing to pass legislation deeming they have all accepted and can have their day in court. That is exactly what I asked him to do last Friday for the UFFI home owners, and he refused.

Mr. Speaker: The honourable member has one minute.

Mr. Swart: All that still is not his total abuse of the UFFI home owners. Unlike other appeals, his assessors are not going to do the investigations and make specific recommendations to the court of revision. Rather, he will leave it to the home owners to do on their own. The minister stated last Friday that he had not had one person within that category contact him on the basis that he had a problem vis-à-vis his appeal. That is obvious, because no appeals have yet been heard.

All in all, it would be difficult to envisage a more disgraceful discharge of the minister's responsibility. What makes his conduct even more inexcusable is that he is perpetrating this massive injustice against a group of totally innocent people who are in this horrible economic and health plight solely as a result of the negligence of his government and the federal government, which are now turning their backs on their cries for help. For God's sake, even at this late date, the minister should reconsider

and offer them the minimum measure of justice that a reduction in assessment would provide.

[Interruption]

Mr. Speaker: Order. I have to remind the people in the visitors' galleries that no noise is to be entertained.

Mr. Cassidy: That was just vigorous applause for this caucus.

Mr. Speaker: It was indeed, but I shall have to advise the visitors that if it happens again they will have to vacate.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Speaker, as is quite normal, the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) tries to make a simplistic issue out of a very complicated issue. Of course that is not the case at all. It would have been very simple to do something that New Brunswick has done, come up with an across-the-board change in the value of the assessment on a property. We do not think that is at all fair and equitable to the people involved with this problem. There is no doubt that this problem is not caused by the people themselves. I do not think anyone debates that.

I do challenge the particular reference by the honourable member as to what level of government is responsible for the problem, but that is an issue for another day and I do not want to take time on it tonight. I would suggest that to arbitrarily come out with a figure would not be fair to the people involved. There is no doubt at all, based on the information to date—

Mr. Di Santo: You would do nothing.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: I did not interrupt anyone over there. Be quiet for a moment and listen to the facts for a change. The member is not used to it, but he should just be quiet for a minute and listen.

There is general consensus as to the extent of the problem. In the case of some properties there is very little if any problem at all. The other extreme is a very significant and a very expensive solution: to rid that property of the foam and the problems related thereto. To cop out of the problem arbitrarily, as New Brunswick has done, and come up with a figure may have some simplistic appeal to some members, but it does not to me.

To suggest that the onus should be on the assessment branch of this government is like saying there are a bunch of needles in the haystack out there and by some bit of psychoanalysis or whatever they can identify those needles. That is really the extent of the problem the honourable member is trying to suggest.

We are not aware of many of the properties that have the problem. As a matter of fact, I would even go so far as to suggest there are many property owners who do not realize they have urea formaldehyde foam insulation as they may not have had a health-related problem. To suggest that those people should be in the same category as those who do have a significant problem and come up with an arbitrary figure would be completely unfair.

Obviously the honourable member is not even aware of the court that handles these things. He keeps referring to it as the court of revision. For his information, it is the assessment review court. So that he will know for the future, that is the impartial tribunal that will deal with the facts of the case. What we have done in every municipality in this province where ratepayers have brought forth the fact that they have a problem, is we have worked with them and provided information and details as to what they should be prepared to present to that court, such as the fact that they have the insulation; some of the insulation; a copy of their grant or a copy of their contract.

Mr. McClellan: You can find renovations to reassess, but you can't find homes with urea formaldehyde foam insulation.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Doesn't the member ever stay quiet?

Mr. McClellan: When it is absolute rubbish, it is very hard.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Why does he not turn around and talk to the wall and listen to himself for a change? It is not much to listen to but he should try it.

In actual fact the issue involved here is not nearly as simplistic as stated. The people, we hope, will go before the court. Whenever we have been asked, we have assisted them in what they would need to present the problem, any indication of market values within the neighbourhood, any cost from people who would take out the insulation, and relate those facts in front of the assessment review court. We would hope that, understandably, their assessments would be reduced and adjusted accordingly.

Depending on what happens in the courts this year, if there is any kind of indicated pattern, obviously we will be looking at that issue as far as 1982 assessment for 1983 taxation is concerned. However, at the moment we really do not have that information and it would be completely unfair and completely inequitable otherwise.

The House adjourned at 10:41 p.m.

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Ontario, LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

No. 30

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)



Second Session, Thirty-Second Parliament

Thursday, April 22, 1982

Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Thursday, April 22, 1982

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

COMMISSION ON ELECTION CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENSES

Mr. Speaker: I beg to inform the House I have today laid upon the table the seventh annual report of the Commission on Election Contributions and Expenses for the year 1981.

STATUS OF ANNUAL REPORTS

Mr. Speaker: Last week, Mr. Shymko, the member for High Park-Swansea, as chairman of the social development committee, questioned the validity of the petition tabled on March 30 by Mr. R. F. Johnston, the member for Scarborough West, under standing order 33(b) to refer the annual report of the Ministry of Community and Social Services for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1980, to the standing committee on social development.

Mr. Shymko pointed out that standing order 33(b) applies only to reports required by statute, and this is correct, as it is clearly stated in the standing order. However, Mr. Johnston mentioned that he understood there had been some precedents for petitions being accepted respecting reports which were not statutory.

I have had this matter looked into very carefully, and I find that 23 petitions under this standing order have been filed prior to the one under consideration. Of those 23, 19 concerned statutory reports, while four were for reports not required by statute; three of the four having been presented in the previous Parliament and one in the first session of this Parliament on April 27, 1981. Obviously, this places me in something of a dilemma.

As no objection was taken to the previous four, it might be considered that some precedent had been established, despite the clear wording of the standing order. However, the more reasonable interpretation, and one to which I have given a great deal of thought I might add, is that the lack of objection amounted to unanimous consent in those instances.

I have therefore come to the conclusion that the most reasonable way of disposing of this present difficulty is to allow this reference to

stand, but at the same time advise the House that the table officers have now been furnished with a list of all reports required by statute, and henceforward when such petitions are tabled they will be checked against that list and not accepted if the report in question is not required by statute.

Mr. Martel: Might I ask, Mr. Speaker, for some guidance and ask you to look into the following matter related to this. In view of the fact some of the ministries have reports which are statutory by nature and others have annual reports that are not statutory, could you attempt to find out if it is possible to make all annual reports statutory so we do not have to be concerned whether they are or not? It seems to me most of the annual reports are statutory and, if there is a good reason for that, we should be proceeding to ensure all annual reports from the ministries are statutory so they can be given consideration by this Legislature.

Mr. Speaker: I must respectfully point out to the member for Sudbury East that decision would lie with the government, not with me.

ACCESS TO HEALTH COUNCILS

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, I rise pursuant to standing order 18, which deals with members' privileges. It involves a directive that emanates from the Ministry of Health. I am sorry to see that the Minister of Health (Mr. Grossman) is not here to hear the point of privilege but I gather from all the notes on his desk he will be here shortly. I trust he will be available on such an important day.

Apparently there is a directive from the Ministry of Health whereby public bodies such as local or district health councils are prohibited from making representations to or speaking with opposition members. Yesterday some of my colleagues, under the chairmanship of the member for Hamilton Centre (Ms. Copps), this party's Health critic, were present in Ottawa and apparently the local district health council wanted to make submissions to this committee. They were prohibited from making such submissions by the Ministry of Health.

Such councils or public bodies are supported by public funds. In this particular case, health

councils receive something like \$6 million in public funds for their operations and are prohibited from speaking to not only opposition members but to other committees like union committees and even to committees as important as the Hall commission.

Not only does this affect the status, the standing and the credibility in the community of the local health councils but, as you know from your experience, it is very important to know what is going on locally in the health process. Opposition members are interested in what is going on in health in this province.

If they are not allowed to get submissions or to speak to bodies as important as health councils, it undermines the whole democratic process. I trust the minister will be advised by the chair and by this House that we take a dim view of the fact such a directive exists. It is unfair if the health council is put in a strait-jacket.

I trust the minister will not take the approach that if one speaks to Tories in this province that is good government, but if one speaks to the opposition that is politics. That is unfair. That undermines the process and it affects the privileges of all of us.

Mr. Wrye: May I speak on the same point of privilege, Mr. Speaker? As a member of the Liberal health task force who attended the hearings in Ottawa yesterday, as I have attended them at all of the stops along the way, I want to rise in support of my friend the member for Ottawa East and the concerns he raised.

I find it a matter of great concern that the Ministry of Health would take it upon itself to call a district health council, which is supposedly an independent advisory body to the government of Ontario and not to the Tory party, and tell the health council it would be improper for it to attend. It seems to me an independent advisory body could have made its own choice of whether in fulfilling its community mandate, as certain members of that committee wish to do, it wished to appear before a committee.

2:10 p.m.

I might point out quite specifically that the effect of the ministry's directive to the health council was such that on a number of occasions when we wished to learn what stage the matters that had been sent to the health council for consideration had reached in terms of its decisions on requests for funding, we were unable to do so because we had no representations from the health council. I hope, Mr. Speaker, through

you and the House we can put an end to this practice, which appears to turn district health councils into nothing more than an arm of the government and an arm of the Tory party.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, speaking briefly to the same point of privilege, I would point out to the attention of you and the House that if this is a new policy directive it is recent, which is a cause for considerable concern. I can recall a health tour conducted by the New Democratic Party prior to the last provincial election and it had deputations from a number of district health councils.

If there is a new policy directive it is obviously in line with the new realities of March 19, 1981, which seem to add up to gagging the opposition parties, hamstringing them and preventing them from performing their parliamentary functions. It is a matter of enormous importance to the opposition that this abrogation of our privileges be looked into by you, Mr. Speaker, and a report be brought back to this assembly.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure the Minister of Health will take notice of your remarks and respond.

Mr. McClellan: I just want to be clear, Mr. Speaker, that you will report back with respect to what appears to be an abrogation of the privileges of opposition members.

Mr. Speaker: There seems to be some doubt on that and I would like to take a look at it before I obligate myself. Clearly it is not my responsibility to report back to the House on matters that lie within government jurisdiction.

Mr. Breaugh: Mr. Speaker, this is an important point for all members, not just opposition members. Traditionally, the members of this Legislature have had the privilege of visiting provincial institutions and organizations for purposes of getting information. I would suggest that after some deliberation, Mr. Speaker, you really have to take this as a point of privilege for each and every member of this Legislature. It is our obligation to find out information about situations which, particularly in this instance, are being handled by district health councils.

I know I am, and I imagine most of the members of this House are, regularly invited to meet with our local district health councils. We use them regularly to elicit information about proposals that have been made to the ministry. To shut off that communication link between providers of service, the health councils and their properly elected representatives is, to me, quite a serious abrogation of my privileges.

I would encourage you most sincerely to look

into this situation very deeply and to make a ruling on the rights of members of this Legislature to meet with and talk to people who are purportedly members of the public appointed to do a specific job, in this instance looking after the co-ordination of health care facilities, which is a most important aspect of government in Ontario.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, I have had numerous contacts with the district health council in Ottawa. I am very concerned over the events of yesterday, because effectively there has been an attempt to provincialize a council that has always been seen as being part of the Ottawa community rather than just an arm of the Ministry of Health.

That district health council includes representatives who have given a great deal of time and concern to it on a voluntary basis, people from the local community and people from local government. They have never seen themselves as working for the provincial government. They see their role as providing advice about the ways in which district health needs may best be met.

If they now are told they are to be muzzled by order of the provincial Ministry of Health or because the ministry threatens to withdraw funds if they do not shape up, I think it is a sad and sorry episode in the development of means of obtaining independent advice on a local or regional basis.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, I want to speak on the same point of privilege. I am shocked to hear what the government is doing, apparently under directives from the Minister of Health. I am wondering how this is consistent with the principle of freedom of information that the government has espoused in the past and now is trying to back away from.

Mr. Speaker: As I assured all honourable members earlier, I will take this into consideration and give it serious thought.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, I rise again under standing order 81(d). As you will recall, I have raised this a number of times. I tabled a number of questions on March 31, which should have been answered by April 15, with at least an interim answer.

I received yesterday, delivered by hand, the answers to questions 19, 20, 22 and 23. I have as yet still not received an answer to question 21. I raised this problem once before because the

cabinet ministers involved were not complying with the rule. The Solicitor General (Mr. G. W. Taylor), to whom question 21 was directed, has not yet not complied with the rule. As far as I am concerned, the other minister, who submitted answers which I received yesterday, did not either. He supplied answers but they were late.

I would ask, Mr. Speaker, that you discuss this with the government House leader to determine when and if the Solicitor General intends to answer my question and what can be done to assure that these questions are answered, at least on an interim basis, for all members who table written questions according to the rules of the House. There obviously is some backup, some problem in the cabinet office, if the ministers submit written answers and they are not then tabled in this House. What is the problem? Please investigate it and report back.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much. I just remind all honourable members that the standing orders regulate the operation of this House and nobody is exempt from compliance. I am pleased to urge a quick compliance.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

FISH TESTING PROGRAM

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, it is traditional at this time of year, just prior to the opening of the 1982 spring trout season this Saturday, that the Ministry of the Environment update members of the Legislature, Ontario anglers and consumers on the results of Ontario's fish testing program.

Ontario has pioneered the testing of sport fish for possible contamination and the recommendation of guidelines for the safe consumption of fish based on our test results and the advice of our environmental health specialists.

For the past six years we have provided this information to the public in convenient, easily read booklet form available at no charge. We have also issued supplementary bulletins as new tests were completed through the year.

Today, I am pleased to inform the members that copies of the 1982 editions of our bilingual publications for southern and northern Ontario, Guide to Eating Ontario Sport Fish, are now being released and will be available to the public generally throughout the province as of April 26.

2:20 p.m.

Members have a set a booklets available to them in their post boxes at the present time and

more will be available on request, if any members require them.

These 1982 editions provide test results from more than 70,000 fish taken from over 1,100 lakes, rivers and selected areas of the Great Lakes. Analysis of the data continues to indicate that the majority of sport fish from these waters are free from contamination and may be eaten safely in unrestricted amounts.

Accumulated results to date show that in well over 1,000 of the waters tested, some or all sizes and species of fish were found to be suitable for unrestricted consumption. In only two of the water bodies tested do our advisers recommend no consumption of any fish tested. These two locations continue to be the Wabigoon River below Dryden and nearby in Clay Lake. A federal-provincial task force is investigating possible remedial measures to counteract the mercury problem which has persisted in those areas for many years.

As a further convenience to anglers, this year's fish guides have been revised and streamlined to include information on 2,3,7,8-TCDD—dioxin—in addition to analyses for mercury, polychlorinated biphenyls, Mirex and DDT.

The guides are available without charge from offices of the Ministries of the Environment, Natural Resources and Northern Affairs. In addition, the booklets will also be available at vacation area outlets of the Liquor Control Board of Ontario and Brewers' Retail stores during late spring and the summer months as long as supplies last.

JOB CREATION PROGRAM

Hon. Mr. Pope: Today, Mr. Speaker, I wish to announce a new federal-provincial job creation program to assist unemployed workers in the Ontario mining industry. The program, which I presented to federal Employment and Immigration Minister Lloyd Axworthy, is similar in concept to one introduced earlier this year for forest industry workers.

The program was initially developed in conjunction with the Ontario Ministry of Labour and is a bridging measure that allows companies, municipalities or other organizations to rehire skilled workers now receiving unemployment insurance and to keep them working until local economies recover. Provision will be made to create job opportunities for permanently laid-off workers until they are able to find other work in the community.

Preliminary discussions with the regional municipality of Sudbury, Inco Ltd. of Sudbury,

Pamour Porcupine Mines Ltd. of Timmins, Madawaska Mines Ltd. of Bancroft and Umex Mines of Pickle Lake have yielded encouraging results. We anticipate that contracts with these groups and others will be signed very shortly.

Groups qualifying for the program will be able to offer unemployed workers an enhanced pay package. Under a special provision of the Unemployment Insurance Act, workers can receive 25 per cent more than their allowable benefit. In addition, Ontario, through the Ministry of Natural Resources, will contribute \$60 per week plus a benefit package including 100 per cent of the Ontario health insurance plan, the Workmen's Compensation Board and the Canada pension plan.

Projects allowable under the program will include fencing and capping of abandoned mine openings, mine tailings rehabilitation and other projects related to land reclamation. As well, my ministry would entertain other project areas that meet the criteria of retaining skilled workers in the community and providing other long-term benefits to the industry. For instance, we are currently looking at another project that would employ geologists and draftsmen.

The program provides an opportunity for a significant reduction to the backlog of rehabilitation work, thus eliminating potential safety hazards.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that we must maintain the health of our many small, resource-dependent communities and ease their hardship in these difficult times.

It is my firm belief that retaining skilled workers within the communities and providing companies with short-term programs that will have long-term benefits assures some measure of wellbeing until the economic prognosis is better; it is to be hoped within the next six months.

Mr. Laughren: On a point of information, Mr. Speaker: I wanted to know if the minister had inadvertently left out a section of his speech which would have also employed workers at a research project at the Creighton Mines, which he promised?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs.

PHYSICIANS' SERVICES

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Health (Mr. Grossman) had a statement planned and intended to be here, but he will be 15 or 20

minutes. Perhaps we could proceed to question period and then, with the consent of the House, revert to his statement when he is here. He is just preparing it.

ORAL QUESTIONS

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, on that point: Obviously we were expecting a statement today. I am quite disappointed the minister is not here. He was seen ambling about the building about two o'clock and his briefing books are here with all the answers to our questions. In view of the gravity of the situation I would like your permission, sir, to stand down my questions until we hear the minister's statement so we can question him thereupon.

Mr. Speaker: I would just remind all honourable members that this is Thursday afternoon, private members' afternoon, and there are very specific rules governing what goes on. I just point that out for the benefit of all members.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, what the Leader of the Opposition suggests would be perfectly agreeable to us. The minister is here. He is preparing a statement that he wants to make. It is a statement which he wants to be sure is written out and available and the words are as he wishes them.

Mr. Speaker: The decision will be made by the House.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, if each party has a question from the leader with respect to health, maybe we could allow the leaders to go back to their question and take a first leadoff—

Mr. Speaker: I do not have any objection to that. The Leader of the Opposition, with his second question first.

Mr. Nixon: He has two health questions.

Mr. Peterson: The emergency in this province today is the question of health. If the minister is not here to answer the questions I do not think we should be diverted into less important matters. You may want to use your discretion to adjourn the House for 10 or 15 minutes until the minister comes so we can ask him about the relevant issues of the day. Maybe that is a good suggestion.

Mr. Speaker: I did say I would revert. That is no problem. You are not going to lose an opportunity to ask your questions, but I will go immediately to the member for Sudbury East.

Mr. Martel: Let me go back. Maybe my friend did not understand what I was suggesting. If he

has one question for the minister—both are for the Minister of Health?

Mr. Peterson: Yes. The minister obviously has a very important statement. I think we should have the opportunity to question him thereon, and I would like to reserve my right to exercise my privileges as Leader of the Opposition when he arrives. In view of the gravity, as I said, Mr. Speaker, if you would like to use your discretion to adjourn the House for a few minutes until he arrives, that would be fine with us, so we could preserve the integrity of the entire question period.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I have a question that is not on health matters. If you would like us to proceed I would be quite prepared to do so.

Mr. Speaker: We can reserve the two questions for the Leader of the Opposition and go immediately to the member for Port Arthur.

Mr. Martel: We will do the same and start with health thereafter.

Mr. Speaker: Then we will come back here to the private members and recognize the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk.

WHITE FARM EQUIPMENT LAYOFFS

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Labour, and I had an opportunity to give him at least some notice that the question would be asked. It has to do with the three-week layoff of 925 employees at White Farm Equipment.

He will be aware that news reports yesterday indicated the hire-back of these 925 is beginning now that the American owner of White has received permission from the Minister of Industry and Trade in Ontario (Mr. Walker), and his opposite number for the government of Canada, to buy out control of White Farm Equipment.

My question to the minister has to do with the validity of the layoff. Since there was no economic reason for these people to be put out of their jobs for three weeks—they could not apply for unemployment insurance for two of those weeks, or a considerable period of time, and they were simply being held hostage by the American shareholder of the previous corporation to apply unnatural financial pressure and political pressure to the minister here in Ontario, Mr. Gray in Ottawa and to the Canadian shareholder who was forced to sell out, taking a \$1.5 million profit in only one year based largely on government guarantees—will the minister

tell the House what he feels about this circumstance?

If no law controls such an unconscionable layoff, will he at least contact the new 100 per cent United States owner and controller of White Farm Equipment and tell him that we feel his actions are immoral and unconscionable?

2:30 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, the figures as I understand them coincide with what the honourable member has brought forward: 740 hourly rated employees and 185 out of 285 salaried employees.

As I understand it, there was a cash flow problem; the company could not finance its inventory while it was negotiating with the people in the United States and therefore it had to stop production. The Ministry of Labour investigated immediately. In fact, it had been monitoring the situation for some months, because the company had been in trouble prior to these latest developments.

Under the terms of the Employment Standards Act, the layoff was temporary and if these people returned prior to 13 weeks, notice was not required. However, if any of them were not taken back prior to the end of the 13-week period, they would be entitled to regular notice or pay in lieu of notice.

The member has asked if I would be prepared to get in touch with the comptroller of the company in the United States. I certainly would. I am not sure I would be able to make the accusations the member has asked me to make. These are opinions he is expressing and I do not have any knowledge of their validity. However, I certainly would be prepared to contact the comptroller of the American company.

Mr. Nixon: I do not mean "comptroller" in the sense the minister is referring to it. I mean the American person who now controls the company.

Since the minister is talking about cash flow problems, I would like to ask whether he is aware that the cash flow problems as he described them were third-party finance problems, that the government of Canada offered a \$20-million loan, which was rejected by the American partner, and that the normal provider of cash flow third-party financing was an American company called Borg-Warner which, it is rumoured, is supporting the American buy-out.

Is the minister aware that the new owner's first action was to fire the present president of White Farm Equipment and to bring in some-

body from the United States to take his place? Does the minister not feel some deep concern that the sorts of pressures applied, in what I would consider to be a very unhealthy way, have held our Canadian workers as hostages, since there were no normal cash flow problems except those that the government of Canada was prepared to support with a special \$20-million loan? These people were laid off really as hostages in an international crap game, which we should at least condemn as morally reprehensible.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I am aware of all the points the honourable member has raised. If what he tells me is correct, and I have no reason to distrust what he is telling me, then I certainly share his level and measure of concern.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, since the Minister of Industry and Trade himself has admitted that this was a squeeze play by the American partners to gain full control, are the minister and the government considering changes to the act to protect workers and prevent them from being used as hostages, as my friend calls them, in this kind of squeeze play, so we do not see workers' employment used as a way of pressuring governments and companies into accepting foreign ownership?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, the member for Algoma has raised an excellent point. The Employment Standards Act is under constant review by our ministry. That is one of the items that has been looked at and discussed.

ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, I have a two-part question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food in regard to the farm adjustment assistance program.

The minister will recall that under delightful circumstances the night before last, he informed me that the number of farmers who have now received assistance under this program is 188. Listening to his deputy speak to the Canadian Farmers' Survival Association at the Ontario Food Terminal yesterday morning, I was a little surprised when he informed them that 300 farmers now have received successful applications. Can the minister reconcile this rather remarkable escalation of figures over a 12-hour, overnight period?

My second question with regard to the same program is that the minister will be aware—

Mr. Speaker: You only have one question.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, the figures I gave the member at supper were the figures at the close of business last Friday. They were prepared for the answer to question 76 standing in the name of the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell), which answer will be tabled today. I think my deputy was talking about an anticipated figure. The decision committee has been meeting daily since that time and they anticipate a further 100 cases will be approved this week alone, bringing the total at the close of business today to almost 300 applications approved.

Mr. MacDonald: May I suggest to the minister that since the public has a great deal of interest in it, surely the daily updated figures should be available from his office so that, if people call, they will not think something is being hidden?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: They are available. We have the figures available. Anyone who calls my office can get them—

Mr. Speaker: Let us not get into a debate. May we hear the supplementary?

Mr. MacDonald: Yesterday morning the farmers were once again putting a moratorium as their top priority item. Since the government itself has conceded the need for some breathing space for farmers to come to grips with their difficulty by a six-month deferral on interest payments, why is the minister so adamantly against granting a moratorium? Why is he using excuses that it is illegal, unconstitutional and things of that nature?

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture task force is headed by a former deputy minister and has on its membership Del O'Brien, a leading eastern Ontario Tory lawyer, expert in the law, who said that should be done. So why is the minister stalling?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I am not going to get into arguments about whether or not a province can do it. The honourable member knows that opinions have been given to us that we do not have the right to do it. Having received the report, the administration looked at that recommendation, first in terms of agriculture and second in terms of the broader economy, and concluded with respect to agriculture that we would be better to institute a program like the farm adjustment assistance program, targeted to individual operations, helping those who can be viable to be viable again, rather than a having a moratorium, which would have to apply to the

whole of the province and which in the long run would be quite counterproductive.

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, I understand the figures given at the dinner meeting which the minister had with the member for York South (Mr. MacDonald) showed that 188 farmers had been assisted and that \$2 million had been given out of the \$60 million that was put into the fund.

I understand the figure of \$2 million was given by the minister or his deputy as the amount that had been given to the farmers in this assistance program. If that is the case, does the \$2 million include the government-guaranteed line of credit, or does it simply include the five per cent subsidy interest part of the program?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I am looking for my copy of the answer to be tabled today, but I do not see it. Looking at my report to the end of last week, I am not sure where the figure of \$2 million comes from; and I referred to 185 the other night, not 188. Again, that was at the close of business last Friday afternoon.

I remind the honourable member that there are three options. One option is the deferral of interest guarantee, and one of the 185 there is involved for \$58,000. On the second option, which is the interest reduction grants, the total amount of the loans eligible in 181 instances where that option has been used is almost \$40 million; that is the number of the loans eligible for the interest reduction grants. On the additional line of guaranteed credit, there are 65 applications where that option has been applied; there is a further \$4 million of credit involved there.

I do not have with me the amount of the \$60 million that is now absolutely committed. A lot of that, I suppose, would be contingent on whether there are any business failures among those we have approved for these supports.

2:40 p.m.

PLANT LAYOFFS

Mr. Harris: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Industry and Trade.

When the provincial government, through its Ontario Development Corp. or Board of Industrial Leadership and Development, is making decisions on loan assistance to companies with manufacturing proposals, do these government agencies not have an obligation to study the impact of such assistance to these new companies on the competitiveness of existing, established companies?

If they do, is the minister aware that Jarvis

Clark, the largest single manufacturing employer in North Bay, a very innovative company manufacturing mine machinery equipment, has just announced the layoff of more than one third of its workers because of a drastic slowdown in national and worldwide sales?

Is the minister aware that at the same time a large consortium of very well-heeled companies is applying to the federal and provincial governments for assistance in establishing what I understand to be a similar operation in Sudbury? I understand the consortium includes such needy companies as Inco, Falconbridge and Noranda as well as Jack Clark, the man who started Jarvis Clark, sold out, moved with his money to the United States and now wants to come back in competition with Jarvis Clark.

I would like to know, as would the management and owners, and most important the laid-off workers of Jarvis Clark would like to know, whether the ministry is planning to assist these international giants to compete with a very well managed, existing company in northern Ontario which this week announced layoffs of more than one third of its work force because of the lack of markets for its products?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, I thank the honourable member for the question. Yes, there certainly is an obligation on the part of the Ontario government and the Ontario Development Corp. to ensure that they are not going to jeopardize jobs of other people within the province.

I am aware of the Jarvis Clark situation. I am also aware of the consortium that is attempting to put together a package that ultimately will establish a centre for mining equipment manufacture in Sudbury. I am aware of that and that there is likely to be provincial participation, as well as federal participation plus participation of a number of large companies, if that is all to come together. As yet, it has not been formally set down and has yet to properly get established.

In the case of Jarvis Clark versus this particular consortium, it is my understanding that there is no relationship between the two. As the member knows, 70 per cent of the mining manufacturing equipment that comes into this province is imported. The reason this particular consortium was set up in the first place was to provide an alternative to the imported goods. So it is my understanding that there will be no relationship between the two.

If there is any competition, I would be very surprised. I cannot imagine there being any competition between the two. I suppose it is

possible there might be the slightest amount of overlap but, generally speaking, I could give some assurance to the member that there will be covenants in whatever agreement is established, if one is established, to ensure that they do not provide that area of competition that is causing some concern.

Mr. Harris: The minister mentioned figures in terms of the amount of imports. Does he know that in 1971 Canada imported virtually 100 per cent of the specialized underground mining equipment vehicles? Today, in addition to exporting, Jarvis Clark supplies 70 per cent of the Canadian market, which I suggest to the minister is pretty good.

I would also like to ask whether the minister is aware that when Jarvis Clark last expanded in 1979-80, it was told by the Department of Regional Economic Expansion that it was too prosperous to qualify for DREE funding.

Will the minister now assure this House and the laid-off employees of Jarvis Clark that he will look into this matter further? If the Sudbury consortium of Inco, Falconbridge, Noranda and Jack Clark is planning to manufacture specialized underground mining equipment to compete with Jarvis Clark in North Bay, will the minister agree that public funds ought not to be used and that the Sudbury consortium is large enough to finance this project itself?

Hon. Mr. Walker: The member has asked a number of questions. I am certainly aware of the stellar performance of Jarvis Clark since 1971 in being able to replace the underground mining machinery. It has done a phenomenal job in that way. It is regrettable, and I think it is a concern for all of us, that the state of the market today is such there would have to be layoffs.

We want to provide any assurance we can to the people in North Bay that if that consortium goes ahead, it will not have as part of its covenants so to speak, that which would allow competition in direct competition to it. We would intend that import substitution be the only clarion call of that consortium if it ever goes ahead.

I regret that DREE, which is a federal operation, saw fit in 1979 to reject any application made by Jarvis Clark at the time, but there is not very much we can do about that at this moment. However, I will give the member those assurances, and I will be pleased to invite him to meet me in the next few days to be sure those assurances are written in.

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, will the minister

tell his colleague from North Bay as well as all the people in North Bay that, given the level of imports of mining machinery in this country, he could establish a consortium or a crown corporation to build mining machinery in every mining community in this country and they still would not be competing with one another?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, I do not think there is much to tell as to that point; the honourable member has already told him.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of Health has appeared. Do we have unanimous consent to revert to ministerial statements?

Agreed to.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

PHYSICIANS' SERVICES

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, first, I apologize to the House for the fact that I have been late in arriving today. Second, I understand the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson) has indicated that my briefing books here contain the answers to all the questions he has asked; he is correct: all the answers are here.

I do apologize to the House for my late arrival, but I have been involved for some time over the past three or four hours in personal discussions with representatives of the Ontario Medical Association.

As a result of those discussions in an attempt to resolve our differences with the physicians of Ontario, some important proposals have been exchanged. Negotiations have been quite encouraging. As a result, the Ontario Medical Association has agreed to call a special board meeting this Saturday afternoon to consider the proposals. Therefore, I am hopeful this matter will be resolved shortly.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, in view of the extraordinary circumstances, I ask the permission of the House to make a brief statement as well. Because of the nature of the discussions today on this question—

Mr. Foulds: No, no.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: You don't make statements; you ask questions.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Obviously we do not have unanimous consent. Is it agreed? Agreed.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, it is about the debate this afternoon which I think is relevant. If you prefer, it can be a preamble to a question that will not arise.

2:50 p.m.

I listened to the minister's statement with interest, and I want him to know that our paramount concern in this party has always been the state of the health care system and the health of the patients in the province. It has never been our intention to interfere with the negotiating process, because we have always preferred a negotiated settlement.

That being said, I am going to withdraw my motion this afternoon. It is not our intention to further complicate the negotiations. I take the minister at his word that he is close to a settlement. It is our intention to try to assist in that and not to try to bring any more pressure to bear than is necessary in the circumstances. Therefore, I wish to take this opportunity to withdraw that motion today. It can stand for Monday, if it should be necessary on that day.

We are prepared to take the minister at his word that progress is being made. Obviously, it is in the collective best interests of the patients of this province, the doctors and everyone else to have a negotiated settlement.

It is also my intention not to ask the minister any questions about the negotiations today so that he will have as clear and free a hand as he can to solve this crisis in our province.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, obviously it is the privilege of the Leader of the Opposition to withdraw his motion. I hope the progress that is being made is genuine, and I hope the minister will see his way clear to make a statement to the House before we adjourn for the weekend to give us a clearer idea of where the parties stand.

ORAL QUESTIONS

(concluded)

Mr. Speaker: Now we will revert to question period and the first question of the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Nixon: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, with respect: We are just going to proceed with the rotation as it was. My leader's questions were directed to the Minister of Health (Mr. Grossman) about the negotiations, and he has indicated he is not going to ask them at this time.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I have two questions that I can ask.

Mr. Speaker: All right. I recognize the member for Port Arthur.

Mr. Foulds: Thank you. Unlike the Leader of the Opposition, I do not put all my eggs in one basket.

Mr. Riddell: Where do you put your marbles?

Hon. Mr. Davis: You have been accused of laying eggs before.

Mr. Foulds: There are other matters of urgent public importance in this province, I assume.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I don't doubt that.

Mr. Riddell: If only Bob Rae were looking down from the heavens now.

Mr. Breagh: At least you know where to look for him, Jack.

Mr. Ruston: Where is he?

Mr. Breithaupt: He has gone to see Napoleon again.

Mr. Nixon: He's the only one we have met who has any brains.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the member for Port Arthur resume his seat, please.

We frequently have complaints about the use of question period. I just point out to the honourable members that they themselves are abusing it. Having said that, I recognize the member for Port Arthur.

FUEL CONVERSION PROGRAM

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications.

Is the minister aware of the program of the Ministry of Energy to convert automobiles from gasoline to propane, in which 300 government cars and about 13,000 privately owned automobiles in the province have been converted?

If that is the case and if the minister is supportive of that program, can he tell us what standards and procedures his ministry has in place to ensure that the conversion from gasoline to propane takes place safely and soundly?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I am certainly aware of the program. As a matter of fact, it is my ministry that has been carrying that program, and not the Ministry of Energy, although it is a joint program between the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Transportation and Communications.

We have been working with propane as an alternative fuel for the off-oil program for a considerable period of time. I believe the member is correct in saying that we have approximately 300 vehicles converted at this time. In the current fiscal year, we are proposing to convert approximately another 300. As a matter of fact, my government car is a propane Mercury Cougar; so I am very familiar with that.

I am not a mechanic and I have not inspected the conversions personally, but to my knowl-

edge there has not been a problem with any safety-related aspects of the conversions.

Mr. Foulds: Has the minister not been made aware of an internal Ministry of Labour report, dated March 15, 1982, with a covering memo from a J. I. Whiting to a Mr. P. B. McCrodan in the mining, health and safety branch of the Ministry of Labour in which he says: "The cars examined in the Ministry of Labour following conversion under the existing purchase orders are vehicles that will be likely to endanger us or any other occupants. Further, we have removed our vehicles from Monarch Propane and their subcontractors." Further, he says, "I also feel you should make our concerns known to the assistant deputy minister, as I am sure the division would be embarrassed if an employee were seriously injured in a propane-related mishap."

In the report on the cars examined a number of flaws were indicated. For example, the container is attached to the sheet metal and not to the main frame of the vehicle; valves, hoses and fittings in the luggage compartment are exposed and not protected against physical damage; the luggage compartment is not sealed from the passenger carrying space; and in a vehicle that my colleagues the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) and the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) travelled in there was an additional hazard of the propane container becoming a projectile within the passenger compartment.

If those serious flaws are found in the government's own cars, does the minister not think it is his responsibility as Minister of Transportation and Communications to have a standard for all of the vehicles converted on the roads of Ontario to protect the safety of the people of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Snow: I am very shocked and annoyed that I have not heard anything about this memo, which apparently originated in the Ministry of Labour. I have not heard anything of that type or any criticism whatsoever of the conversions that are being done.

As to the standards for the manufacture or conversion of an automobile, I believe those come under the Motor Vehicle Safety Act of the Department of Transport. Certainly the new vehicles do; I would have to look into the matter of the conversions. But if the honourable member will please send me a copy of that memo, I will have it looked into immediately.

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Speaker, following the line of the conversion to propane from gasoline in

vehicles and the building of new cars that contain the conversion kit already manufactured, can the minister assure the House that the road tax now exempt on this type of energy will remain so?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, in no way is that a supplementary to the question; I am sure you can understand that. In any case, I am not in a position to answer.

Mr. Samis: Mr. Speaker, first, is the minister aware that the Ford Motor Co. does not recommend conversions at all? Second, now that the minister has been made aware of this report, will he institute some form of recall and testing program for those thousands of vehicles currently on the road to protect the motorists of Ontario who have not got propane as well as those who do?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I could not hear the honourable member's question. Will he kindly repeat it?

Mr. Speaker: Just before he does, may I please have the co-operation of all honourable members by not carrying on private conversations?

Mr. Samis: Is the minister aware that the Ford Motor Co., makers of his own propane car, do not recommend the conversion of existing cars to propane at all, and neither do some of his ministry officials? In view of the information revealed by my colleague, will he institute a program of testing and recall of those cars that have been converted to protect those drivers as well as motorists who do not use propane but who may be affected by any serious incident?

3 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Obviously, I cannot give that commitment. I am not aware of the first two items the honourable member mentioned. No one has ever suggested that to me.

I have met personally with the officials of the Ford Motor Co. who are in charge of their propane program. I will admit that to my knowledge Ford is the only manufacturer that has come out with a factory-manufactured propane car. My ministry car and the one I have at home were two of the first ones to be made. They are working very satisfactorily although they were both recalled about a month ago for some minor adjustment with which I am not familiar. They went back to the dealer for one day for some adjustment.

I do not know if there is any way we could initiate a recall of every car on the road or whether it would be wise to do so.

HOSPITAL CHARGES

Mr. Foulds: I had a question for the Minister of Health (Mr. Grossman) but he seems to have disappeared. I will therefore ask it of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

Does the minister recall the statement of the former Minister of Health (Mr. Timbrell) when he offered his private bed sale and told hospitals they would be allowed to charge extra for private beds and preferred accommodation? In that statement, the then minister said: "Many people are covered by private insurance for preferred accommodation. Nevertheless, as this is a new idea, the hospitals and the ministry must monitor the situation closely to ensure this concept creates no difficulty."

Now that there has been an application and there will be an implementation of a 65 per cent increase in Blue Cross premiums for almost 200,000 senior citizens in Ontario, does the minister not believe that this policy and this increase in premiums makes the people who are most vulnerable in our society even more vulnerable? Is it not the government's responsibility to ensure either that people can get that coverage or that premiums should not be increased?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I do not propose to comment on the Ministry of Health's policy with respect to semiprivate and private accommodation. It is true that Blue Cross has submitted evidence to us that an increase in their premium rate is justified. As the member knows, Blue Cross is a nonprofit organization and the information they have provided to the ministry relates to increased costs they have incurred over a recent period of time. We will be reviewing those to make certain that the increases are justified and then we will make a decision.

Mr. Foulds: Will the minister very carefully scrutinize the categories that are established by Blue Cross which make this coverage, not insurance, because the premiums vary so greatly, depending on the category or pool? Will the minister examine the whole way in which Blue Cross establishes its premiums, especially senior citizens' premiums, which are in excess of those of any other category and for which it has been brought to our attention they are asking the 65 per cent increase?

Can the minister ensure that the application for increases of 46 per cent, 36 per cent and 29 per cent in three other categories are also

thoroughly justified? Will he table that information in the Legislature?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I have already indicated we are reviewing the information provided to us. I will not commit myself to tabling the information in the House.

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Speaker, given the inappropriateness of directing this to the minister, but also given the absence of the Minister of Health who really should be fielding these questions, I have to try to supplement the question from the third party.

I wonder if the minister might not respond to the House and indicate to us if the government will do anything at all to look at the effect of the increases as they apply to seniors and as that effect relates to the availability of ward beds? Because the conclusion one has to draw from looking at these increases is that the seniors simply will not be able to afford semiprivate or private coverage, and therefore will have to go back to the wards. The wards have been or will have been reduced, yet there will be an extra demand put on them. Will the minister ask his colleagues to consider that in the overall bed allotment and the concern they should have for ward coverage?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I will see that the comments made by the member are brought to the attention of the Minister of Health.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I have a letter from a woman in Toronto whose identity I am not able to disclose, but the letter says: "I recently had a baby in Toronto General and was billed for a semiprivate room. At no point did I ask for a semiprivate room, nor did I see any other type of room on the floor."

My question to the minister is, will he undertake through his good offices an investigation to determine whether this is an isolated incident or whether hospitals are using the new beds-for-sale policy in a way that imposes preferred accommodation on patients regardless of their indicated preferences and then sending them the bill after the fact? Will he do that before the superintendent of insurance gives his necessary approval to the implementation of this whole unfortunate scheme?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, with the greatest of respect, I do not see that the two issues of whether we will give approval to the Blue Cross request and the incident the member has spoken about are completely related. Let me say that I will draw the member's points of interest to the minister, but it is my personal view that

either someone should be advised of and agree to semiprivate accommodation or should not be required to pay for it, and neither should the plan.

ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, I would like to pursue our earlier line of questioning with the Minister of Agriculture and Food.

The minister is aware of another demonstration yesterday by Ontario farmers. I might say this is the only recourse left to them to manifest their feelings of utter frustration over the government's lack of adequate and urgently needed financial assistance against spiralling interest rates, which have forced another 47 of them into bankruptcy in the first three months of this year.

Considering the inadequacies of this program, and the tremendous delays in approving the farm adjustment assistance program for the farmers, how meaningful are the assistance programs to the farmers who require operating capital now that seeding is going to start at the end of this week?

Is the minister aware that the banks will not give farmers a line of credit until they receive a response from his decision committee, which is a long time coming and will be a long time coming yet, and in some cases takes up to two months? Is he not aware that suppliers will not give credit on supplies to the farmers for seeding until they establish that a farmer has a line of credit with his bank? Farmers need help now. What is the minister going to do to get this assistance to them so they can buy their seed, their fertilizer, their fuel and all the rest of it, to put their crops in this spring?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, with the greatest of respect, after nine weeks in this portfolio and after scouring all the records, including the latest issue of *Farm and Country* and the talk the honourable member gave to some farmers in Huron, I have yet to determine what specific programs or improvements to the existing program he thinks would be of more help than those we have already implemented.

The lead-off question by the member for York South (Mr. MacDonald) illustrates how well the program is working. The increase in applications to the farm adjustment assistance program, since last Friday alone about 100 more applications have been approved, I think speaks very well for the program.

The answer to question 76 on the Order Paper will be tabled today. It is really a two-part question. First of all, the member asked the

average time from the filing of an application with the lender—the bank, the credit union, the trust company—until a decision is reached by the provincial decision committee. The answer to that question is four weeks.

Secondly, he asked the average time from submission of the recommendation by the local case committee until a decision is rendered by the decision committee. The answer is two weeks, not two months.

He asks how many applications have been turned down. We have rejected only one. Compared to the Farm Credit Corp. or to any other program in the country, the member will find that this one is working extremely well in the numbers of people being assisted, and in the work members of my staff, and those of the banks and other lending institutions, are putting in to help individual farmers return their operations to viability.

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, the deputy minister, meeting with the Canadian Farmers' Survival Association yesterday, indicated that 25 applications are being processed every day. There are 7,000 farmers who, according to the information we have, require assistance. The minister should figure that out. It means more than 200 days will be required to process these loans. These farmers cannot wait any longer for the assistance they need to put in their crops.

Has the minister given any consideration to the request by the Canadian Farmers' Survival Association for a rebate of 50 per cent of the interest they paid in 1981? This would give them the capital they require now to buy their seed, fertilizer and other ingredients.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I have listened to another question and I still do not know where the member stands or what kind of a program he would propose. He was on both sides of the question when he spoke to his own constituents. He was trying to be all things to all people.

The program is aimed at helping individual farmers meet their problems in 1982. We have said repeatedly to requests from various organizations that we are not going to have a program that would rebate interest from 1981. To be fair, if one was going to look at that kind of a program one would have to look at it from the point of view of all segments of society. We could not single out just one.

We have engaged additional staff for this program because of the increase in volume. With the end of classes at the five agricultural colleges, we are reassigning our top economists

to work with our staff in the field to expedite the process. We will assign as many staff members as necessary to maintain the quick turnaround time. I think the member can compare that to any other lending institution. We are processing applications as quickly as possible.

The most important feature is that the program is based on individual evaluations so that we can ensure that the individual farmer receives from the program the maximum individual benefit under its terms.

PUBLIC SERVANTS' RIGHTS

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Attorney General. Now that the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms has been proclaimed by Her Majesty the Queen, is the Attorney General aware of the provisions of section 14 of the Public Service Act of Ontario which makes Ontario public servants liable to be fired if they speak in public, or if they publish an article or letter on any matter forming part of the platform of a provincial or a federal political party?

Does that provision of the Public Service Act not conflict with the guarantee of freedom of speech contained in the Canadian Charter of Rights proclaimed on the weekend? What steps will the government take to amend Ontario's law and ensure that civil servants get the freedom of speech the Canadian Charter of Rights intended them to have.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, I have not read that section of the Ontario legislation in recent months. I would like to say to the former leader of the New Democratic Party that I personally support the principle of that legislation. Not having read it recently, I am not in a position to offer a legal opinion at this time.

I would like to say this: I think that the former leader of the New Democratic Party has missed, in this ongoing debate, a very important principle, which is, that legislation exists for the protection of the individual civil servant so that no government can bring pressure on an individual civil servant to support the party that happens to be forming the government. I think it is unfortunate that in this debate the member has overlooked this very important protection for the civil service of our province.

Mr. Cassidy: The minister seems to be taking a position contrary to his federal colleagues who came to the defence of Neil Fraser, the Revenue Canada employee who was fired because he expressed his views on the subject of metrification. Does the minister not think it is an

intolerable situation when a public servant who happens to disagree with a minister, and happens to believe that civil servants should have political rights, can be fired for expressing that view in public because it happens to be part of the platform of the Ontario New Democratic Party? What rights of free expression do public servants in Ontario have if they cannot even debate whether or not they should have political rights?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I am not going to embroil myself in the particular issue involving this federal civil servant. I have, of course, read some press reports of that situation. But, without turning this into a debate, this is an issue about which no one can be a total absolutist because I am sure that on the one hand, we all pay or give some importance to the right of every citizen to be heard on a political issue. That is a right that has to be respected.

On the other hand, I happen to believe at this time, until I am persuaded otherwise, that the more compelling right is the right of the individual civil servant to be protected from the government in power putting political pressure on him to go out and support that particular government in a partisan manner for fear of losing, for example, some opportunity for promotion. These are the competing rights.

I also happen to believe that while I agree to this point it is difficult to be an absolutist on either side, we have achieved in this country, despite the imperfections of government, of which we are all aware, we have managed to protect the civil service from the types of political pressures that we have seen, for example, south of the border. In our view, such political pressures, if allowed to occur, could undermine the effectiveness of the civil service in a manner that would be detrimental to the rights of all citizens. That happens to be my view at the present time.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, if I may ask the Attorney General by way of supplementary, and by way of preamble agree with him that until there has been some interpretation in the courts it is very difficult to say which laws may or may not offend the principles as set out in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, I wonder, in responding to the question of the member for Ottawa Centre, if the Attorney General has addressed his mind to section 1 of the charter which says all rights under the charter are subject to "reasonable limits prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society." That is the first principle.

The second question is simply this: Does the minister have a working group within his ministry now which is reviewing provincial laws in the light of the new charter to see whether there is any obvious conflict between provincial legislation and some of the principles as set out in the charter?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I think the member for Ottawa East has directed the assembly's attention to the fundamental issue as to what will be supportable as reasonable in a free and democratic society, and I think that is the very question the courts may have to address in this issue. I agree that section 1 is very relevant. I am not going to attempt to predict at this time what the result will be because obviously a good deal of legislation will have to be reviewed by the courts in the context of that section.

3:20 p.m.

As far as a review of the legislation is concerned, we have undertaken a review of all our legislation by law officers of the crown to see, as the member for Ottawa East has pointed out, that there are no obvious conflicts. There will also be issues about which reasonable people can disagree.

Unlike the federal government, we have decided to do this internally because we think it is very important that our law officers of the crown, the people responsible for the administration of these statutes—of course, it involves the people who are most familiar with the legislation—become familiar with the issues that may be raised under the Charter of Rights. I can assure the member for Ottawa East that this important review is now under way.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE ACT

Mr. Breithaupt: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Attorney General. Since the Attorney General has had the report of Professor Mewett on justices of the peace for more than a year, when can we expect to receive a new Justices of the Peace Act to give our JPs proper tenure and security? When will the pay increase promised for February 1 be processed by the ministry?

Mr. T. P. Reid: Are you going to get rid of some of them before you do it?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, I am not going to answer that last question.

The report is an important one, as the member appreciates, and covers a significant area of concern. I cannot predict when legislation will be introduced. We are hearing the views of a

number of interested groups, particularly the views of the JPs themselves. I hope, and I have been assured, that the pay increase which was recommended is "in the works." I am sorry I cannot tell the honourable member at this moment when it will come through. I would have hoped it would have happened before now. I will try to obtain more up-to-date information for the member and advise him accordingly.

Mr. Breithaupt: Part of the difficulty is that the present legislation does deal with tenure and security and with who is responsible for paying the salaries of the justices of the peace. Will the minister advise whether the salaries of those who have been suspended are to be continued in the same manner as the precedents for Judge Docherty and Judge Henrikson? There seems to be a difficulty under the system now of some very severe hardship occasioned by several JPs who have been suspended and who are really in limbo pending certain charges being dealt with or, indeed, after those charges have been dismissed.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I think this is an important issue. There has not been any final decision as to what future policies should be in respect to JPs who regrettably from time to time find themselves facing criminal charges.

It is an issue that has come up recently. Several JPs were tried and acquitted. I do not want to say much more about it now because I think we are close to a resolution of the outstanding matters as far as these JPs are concerned. They are represented by counsel and I think their negotiations have almost reached a satisfactory conclusion.

The issue of suspension with or without pay when people are facing criminal charges is one I have found to be very difficult. In the context of the JPs, it is one that concerns me greatly. We will perhaps have to set a more definite policy in the future rather than just dealing with these matters on an individual case-by-case basis.

MINIMUM WAGE

Mr. Samis: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Can the minister tell the House and the working poor of Ontario what he intends to do to ensure that the minimum wage in the province will mean that a working person will earn at least enough to be above the poverty line in our metropolitan areas? A recent report from the National Council of Welfare indicates that whether it is a single person or two people working, both of them would be below the

poverty line in Ontario and we would be the only major province in Canada to have such a situation.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the minimum wage was raised on two occasions last year and at present it is equivalent to the federal minimum wage. It is also my understanding that it is in the mid-range of the minimum wages across Canada. Most important from one perspective, not from the perspective the member is bringing forward, it is competitive with the jurisdictions close to Ontario in which the industries and businesses of the province have to compete.

Mr. Samis: Could the minister tell the people in Ontario who have to work at the minimum wage why they have to work for a lower wage level than a worker in Quebec and why they have to work for a lower wage level than people in Manitoba, in Saskatchewan, in Alberta and in British Columbia? In view of the inflation rate, what commitment is the minister prepared to make this year to do something to adjust the minimum wage upwards; first, to be competitive and second, to compensate for the inflation rate?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I am hesitating only because I appreciate the point that the member is making. I find no quarrel with that point at all. In answer to his question, I would say at this time there is no movement afoot to raise the minimum wage.

ASSISTANCE TO HOME OWNERS

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the Attorney General. In these very difficult economic times the Attorney General is aware that a number of individuals are losing their residential properties, and sometimes commercial properties, as a result of defaults on mortgage payments. I understand the Mortgages Act is a statute within the minister's jurisdiction. If I am wrong, perhaps my question could be put to another legal expert, the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Elgie). No; he wants to stick to medicine?

Mr. T. P. Reid: As a doctor, he was a good lawyer; as a lawyer, he was a good doctor.

Mr. Roy: My question to the Attorney General is this: Is the Attorney General aware that more and more individuals, financial institutions and others who default mortgages are not proceeding by way of foreclosure, under which a person who has difficulty sometimes has remedies, such as notice of desire of redemp-

tion, 60 days or six months to delay or to do some refinancing? What most financial institutions and individuals are doing these days is proceeding by way of power of sale under the mortgage. Under that procedure, as the Attorney General will be aware, there are very few remedies under the law, the process is quite summary and in a period of 30 days a property is sold with very little guarantee to the person who may be in default.

Would the Attorney General undertake to review this process and see to it that the provisions, the guarantees and certain remedies that are given to certain individuals under the Mortgages Act are not continually and systematically circumvented by people proceeding by way of what we call power of sale?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, my information may not be totally accurate, but so far as most financial institutions are concerned, given these very difficult economic times they are demonstrating considerable reluctance to proceed with either foreclosure procedures or under the power of sale provisions.

I appreciate the importance of the question. I am told the number of financial institutions that have actually moved under power of sale or under foreclosure against individuals is very few. It has happened very infrequently because they are demonstrating a certain degree of sensitivity.

3:30 p.m.

Where the problem exists to a greater extent is with respect to individual mortgages because, although we tend to think of mortgagees often in the context of large or significant financial institutions, as the member for Ottawa East (Mr. Roy) appreciates as well as I do, there are many tens of thousands of mortgages held by individuals.

I do not know, since I do not have any figures with respect to the number of powers of sales that have been exercised under those mortgages, but the alternative is to rewrite these contracts by legislation, and I would be reluctant—obviously that is something that would have been thought through very carefully before taking such legislative initiative.

It would be helpful to us—and perhaps there is some information kicking around government that might tell us—to know just how many people are losing their homes through this route. I agree with the member it is an important issue.

Mr. Roy: I do not know if the Ontario Law Reform Commission has had occasion to review this problem, but this may be a good area for it to look at in the future. I appreciate what the Attorney General has said about some financial institutions having stated publicly that they will not move either by way of foreclosure or power of sale against defaulting mortgagors.

Nevertheless, I wonder if the Attorney General would look at the Mortgages Act, because apparently one of the reasons that so many individuals are moving by way of power of sale is that, in foreclosure proceedings, by the time one really gets to a point where one can proceed and take over the property it is at least nine months by the time the notice of desire of redemption is put down.

That may be one of the problems, this circumventing of the process through proceeding by way of power of sale, where there are very few rights for the mortgagors. I suggest maybe the Attorney General could look at this, that he might review the process and have legislation by way of which there is a happy medium between no rights at all under power of sale and undue delay under foreclosure proceedings.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: We will take a look at it.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

SUCCESSION LAW ACT

Mr. Breithaupt moved, seconded by Mr. Newman, first reading of Bill 87, An Act respecting the Succession to Estates of Deceased Persons in Ontario who have Beneficiaries Residing in Designated Countries.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Breithaupt: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the bill is to ensure that payments made from the estates of persons domiciled in Ontario at the time of death are not made to foreign beneficiaries who are unlikely to receive, for their whole benefit or use substantially, the full value of any payments made under the estate and who reside in certain countries designated by regulation.

The bill provides for an application to be made to a court for an order permitting payments to a foreign beneficiary. The court may also order that no payment be made to a foreign beneficiary, in which case the court shall make an order disposing of the estate in accordance with the rules of succession contained in the Succession Law Reform Act with necessary modifications.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE PAPER

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the answer to question 21 standing on the Notice Paper. I would also like to table the answers to questions 15, 54, 55, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 65, 66, 67, 68, 71, 73, 76 and 82 and the interim answers to questions 53, 56, 57, 64 and 70, all standing on the Notice Paper (see Hansard for Friday, April 23).

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, with the consent of the House, I might indicate to you the kind gesture of the Leader of the Opposition in not putting his motion for an emergency debate today, which you would have been considering.

Recognizing that you have not considered it, and of course we do not know whether you would have decided to rule in favour of that motion, but knowing that all three parties would have supported it if it had been put, certain other arrangements were made by members who believed their business, which was coming up under private members' business today, perhaps would not have been considered.

With the consent of the House, we have agreed that private ballot item 5 would not be dealt with today, but I will put the appropriate motion so it can be dealt with next week. Ballot item 6 will be dealt with at 4:30 p.m., the regular time it would be considered at.

With the consent of the House, I would like to call the 22nd order, consideration of the second reading debate on Bill 36, An Act to establish the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, which would proceed until 4:30 p.m. and then the item of the member for Wilson Heights (Mr. Rotenberg) would be considered.

Mr. Speaker: Just to make it clear, do we have unanimous consent or concurrence? Agreed.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MINISTRY OF CITIZENSHIP AND CULTURE ACT (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 36, An Act to establish the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture.

Mr. Di Santo: I was really reluctant, Mr. Speaker, but since everybody else agrees, I will.

Last Tuesday night we started debating Bill 36, An Act to establish the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture. I was explaining the reasons

we oppose this bill. I mentioned that when the Ministry of Culture and Recreation was finally set up in 1974, after a long period of labour, the Premier (Mr. Davis) set up the guidelines and the framework within which the new ministry would operate.

3:40 p.m.

The other night I read the statement the Premier made on December 17, 1974. It is extremely puzzling that while at that time the Premier thought recreation and culture, being two elements of what is the total perception of a person, should be in one ministry because it is essential for the development of the human person, today we are faced with a bill that says for the exact same reasons there should be two different ministries, or rather that recreation should be chopped out of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation and the former ministry should become the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture.

But we know that citizenship was very much one of the goals of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation. In section 6 of the act that set up the Ministry of Culture and Recreation, we can see that the government at that time set the same goals it is now telling us are the goals of the mutilated ministry.

Subsection 6(1) says: "It is the function of the ministry to advance and encourage responsible citizenship through the process of cultural and recreational development, including:

"(a) preserving and maintaining the cultural heritage of residents of Ontario with full recognition of their diverse traditions and backgrounds;

"(b) promoting access to the benefits of citizenship and of active involvement in the cultural and recreational life of the province; and

"(c) stimulating the development of new forms of cultural expression and promoting the concept of individual and community excellence."

Today in Bill 36, these are the objectives of the ministry: "4(a) to encourage full, equal and responsible citizenship among the residents of Ontario;

"(b) recognizing the pluralistic nature of Ontario society, to stress the full participation of all Ontarians as equal members of the community, encouraging the sharing of cultural heritage while affirming those elements held in common by all residents;

"(c) to ensure the creative and participatory nature of cultural life in Ontario by assisting in

the stimulation of cultural expression and cultural preservation;

“(d) to foster the development of individual and community excellence, enabling Ontarians to better define the richness of their diversity and the shared vision of their community.”

What the government is telling us today is that with the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture it can achieve exactly the same goals and objectives that in 1974 the Premier thought were extremely important to reach with a ministry that comprehended not only culture but also recreation. That is regrettable.

In personal terms, I am sure the minister will do an excellent job because we know his commitment and we know his dedication and his intelligence, but because of engineering problems within the cabinet the Premier chopped a very important part from the previous ministry. If the government is serious about a policy for recreation, if the government is serious about a policy for culture, then we would have better results than we had in the past.

My colleague the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) conducted extensive research throughout the province and found that the organization involved in the field of recreation, the parks and recreation associations, were shocked when they heard that recreation all at once had been lumped together with tourism.

In fact, they thought that recreation in Ontario would never have prominence, since we know that tourism will take an important role, if nothing else for economic reasons, and that the recreation factor once again will be put on the back burner. Those organizations are anxious to know now what their destiny is.

We know, and I mentioned this the other night, that since 1974 there has been a long process in the Ministry of Culture and Recreation, and just lately, after 1980, you will remember that the then Minister of Culture and Recreation (Mr. Baetz) commissioned an investigation by Douglas Fisher. The report came out, and we asked the minister if he was going to implement its numerous recommendations. The minister finally started moving in this area.

At that time we thought something concrete was happening in the Ministry of Culture and Recreation because the ministry was starting to take the lead role that the Fisher report had recommended and that had been lacking during the seven years since the ministry was created.

Mr. Speaker, you will remember that one of the results that was quite constant throughout the Fisher report was the disappointment of the

local organizations, organizations that are operating especially in the area of recreation but also in the area of fitness and amateur sports. One of the disappointments was the fact that, apart from the lack of adequate funding from the government, apart from the fragmented way in which those sectors were financed and funded, there was a lack of communication between the local organizations and the ministry.

In fact, Douglas Fisher made a series of recommendations that centred on two important principles: one, that the ministry develop a strategy for recreation; and two, that co-ordination be created between the local parties and the ministry.

At the very moment when some results were becoming apparent the Premier, for reasons that have nothing to do with policy, for reasons that have nothing to do with the delivery of services in this area, decided that the ministry should be chopped up and that a new position should be created to keep the former Minister of Culture and Recreation in cabinet. We know what a disaster this minister was, because in the history of mankind I think only a few people have been able to create problems by handing out money, and that minister was able to do it.

I think the decision of the Premier was, to say the least, short-sighted, and even if it is expedient for the government at this point to create a new position in cabinet we know there will be problems because it is not clear where regulation 200 will be; under the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture or the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation.

The municipalities that apply will be in a dilemma because there will be many projects that are both recreational and cultural, and the people in charge will not know which ministry to apply to. Therefore there will be more bureaucracy and more disappointment for the people who are working in this area. Most of these people are volunteers who devote their time especially to the fields of amateur sports and fitness.

3:50 p.m.

We also oppose this bill for another reason. We do not think this government is serious when it talks about multiculturalism. We on this side of the House have been convinced for many years that unless we create structures in our society that will allow all persons to feel at home regardless of their background and culture and to feel that they have equal opportunities, then we are creating a society with inequalities and the possibility of disruption for cultural and

racial reasons. We know we have those problems right now.

I want to emphasize what a coincidence it is that we are debating Bill 36, which establishes the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, at the very time when the most popular sport in town is ethnic-bashing through what is happening at the Toronto Board of Education. You have certainly read in the media, Mr. Speaker, what poison is being written on those supposed attempts to destroy the most important segments of this society. If you had listened to any radio station yesterday or today you would have heard about delegation after delegation going to the Toronto Board of Education to protest against the teaching of a third language during school hours.

I can understand that there are people who are not satisfied with the teaching of third languages as part of the regular curriculum in Ontario schools. I understand that above all because I know that most of those people speak out of ignorance rather than out of bigotry or bias. Most of those people do not understand that the teaching of third languages is not an attempt to emasculate the school program or lower its level.

On the contrary, it is an attempt to create the basis on which to build a better society by putting children of different backgrounds who are handicapped by the fact that they do not speak English and belong to a different culture in a position to operate in the school system at the same level as the other students. It makes them better students and better citizens.

Mr. Speaker, you certainly know, because you are knowledgeable of this, that when the separate school board in Metropolitan Toronto instituted that program in 1977 there was no disruption of the system. There was no major problem. There was no busing, like some people pretend today there would be in Toronto. There was no uproar. The programs are running quietly and with the satisfaction of the students in both the ethnic communities and the English-speaking communities.

That has been one of the major achievements in the city of Toronto; an achievement that is the confirmation of examples that we know, examples that we had in other jurisdiction outside Canada; in the United States for instance and also in Europe, where there is a very large movement of migrants from one country to another.

It was disgraceful that the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) the other day, in

commending the report that is debated, in this case by the board of education of the city of Toronto, made comments that I think were inappropriate. The fact that she was impressed by the report is understandable, but she said, and I think this is very serious, instituting language classes during school hours would, and I quote: "create the possibility that you would be ghettoizing children. That defeats the major purpose of the public school system. I find the proposal worrisome."

This is the Minister of Education of Ontario who in 1977, for strictly electoralistic purposes, announced that this province would institute the heritage programs in Ontario. This is the Minister of Education who supposedly will vote for this bill, Bill 36, a bill that among other objectives is to encourage full, equal, responsible citizenship among residents of Ontario and a bill that recognizes the pluralistic nature of Ontario society.

The Deputy Speaker: This ties in with Bill 36, I presume?

Mr. Di Santo: Yes, it is on Bill 36, Mr. Speaker. I was referring to the Minister of Education because I think unless this government is serious about multiculturalism or a cultural policy towards all citizens and residents of Ontario then it is useless to have a Ministry of Citizenship and Culture.

If the minister does not understand that by learning another language we do not create worse citizens but that ignorance is the base of some of the malfunctions of our society, ignorance is the base of racism, ignorance is the base of discrimination and not the fact that citizens become more knowledgeable, then I think we have a very serious problem in Ontario. This government would have changed its attitude a long time ago if it had watched what was happening outside of Ontario.

4 p.m.

It is not fair to watch south of the border only when we are talking about the minimum wage, as the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) did today. Every time we talk about the minimum wage, the Minister of Labour or the Premier says, "We cannot compete with South Carolina, with Texas or with states south of the border."

It is also valuable for the government to look south of the border when we are dealing with problems like culture or multiculturalism. In fact, we have proposed many instances to the government of models that have been implemented in southern California, Texas and Mas-

sachusetts, where the school systems are being revamped with the purpose of accommodating children who speak different languages.

For many years, the great city of Boston has implemented a program for the Spanish-speaking people, which is mandatory by the way. This program provides that wherever there are 20 or more Spanish-speaking children in a given school, it is mandatory to set up classes for the children. This is completely different from the programs we want to institute in the city of Toronto. These children are taught in their mother language, and English is phased in over a number of years. After three years, the children are perfectly bilingual.

Apart from the social advantages that the program has produced, the government should look at the report that appraised the program and it would see that there has been a dramatic drop in juvenile delinquency, because the number of drop-outs in the schools was dramatically reduced. After three years, the Spanish-speaking children finally became competitive with the other children. They could match them and make those academic achievements that they could not make before.

What happened was that the school system was not disrupted at all. In fact, the general public does not even know that this program is in place. There were no problems created by other children who did not want to learn those programs, because the program was only mandatory for the children who wanted to take the program. It is a program that is intended to help children who do not speak English, children with different backgrounds, and not English-speaking children.

The same will happen in the city of Toronto. It has been happening since 1977 in the separate school boards. Nobody is forcing anyone to take a course that he does not want to take.

I am raising this issue because it is relevant to the bill we are discussing. If the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson), while supporting this bill that encourages the cultural diversity of the province and recognizes the multicultural and multiracial setup of this province, at the same time clamps down on a program and defines that program as worrisome, I think not only that there is a contradiction in the policies of the government but also that the government is not serious about the policy of multiculturalism.

That the government is not serious about the policy of multiculturalism is perceived by the people who belong to the minorities in our society. These people are the visible and invis-

ble minorities. In fact, last October, when we were celebrating the 10th anniversary of multiculturalism, many people were asked to think about what had happened in our society in 10 years with regard to multiculturalism. The response was not very enthusiastic.

Many people 10 years ago had thought multiculturalism was an excellent idea which would create a better society in Canada, especially because we were looking at what had happened in the United States, where the results of the melting pot were in front of us. The failures of the melting pot were an admonition to Canada, which faced the same problems the United States had faced a long time ago.

We thought multiculturalism was a novel idea because it was based on a concept that was acceptable to both the groups that had founded Canada initially, the French and the English, and to the numerous other ethnic groups that subsequently came to Canada and realized this country was accommodating them by making them feel at home and by not imposing on them what the melting pot had imposed on many other immigrants who went to the United States and were forced to become Americanized by relinquishing their cultural or national background.

In Canada, the concept of multiculturalism was based on the idea that all of us could be good Canadians while preserving our heritages. The second aspect of multiculturalism was that by preserving our heritages and by exchanging the values of our heritages with all other Canadians, we would be able to do two things: One, make people who had come from other countries and from other cultures feel at home in Canada; and two, share the richness of the different cultures among Canadians; and by doing that create a more vital and vibrant society.

4:10 p.m.

I said before, and perhaps the Minister of Education should learn this, that it is not because of learning that people become more ignorant or biased or discriminatory; it is because of ignorance that they become worse people. Therefore, we thought that by sharing the richness of cultures, which in many instances go back thousands of years and of which all human beings are proud, we would have created a richer and more vibrant Canada.

But after 10 years of that policy, what happened? In the Toronto Star of October 8, 1981, several people were interviewed and asked what they thought about multiculturalism.

"For many immigrants, especially nonwhites," the newspaper says, "multiculturalism in Canada has accomplished little or nothing. They feel 'unaccepted' and their children, although born in Canada, are often regarded as foreigners by mainstream society."

"As far as helping visible minorities, they haven't done a thing," said Audi Dharmalingam, executive director of the University Settlement House on Grange Ave., serving a predominantly Chinese neighbourhood.

"Until minorities who are qualified are in decision-making positions in the institutions, we have achieved nothing," he said.

"The focus should be on acceptance—that regardless of colour, we're all Canadians," he added. Multiculturalism programs by both the federal and the Ontario governments have promoted the diversity of cultures 'but have done nothing to harness these cultures as part and parcel of the Canadian identity.'"

That is exactly the problem I think this ministry is faced with if the ministry is really serious about recognizing what the bill says about the pluralistic nature of Canadian society and about the full participation of all Ontarians as equal members of the community.

Unless we come to a point where, through the policies of the government and through a collective effort in our society, we are able to make the different culture each of us brings to Canada a part of this society, then multiculturalism will be ineffective.

The second point, on which I will speak later—

Mr. Nixon: How much later?

Mr. Di Santo: I am supposed to speak until 4:30.

The other point I will entertain later is: "Until minorities who are qualified are in decision-making positions in the institutions, we have achieved nothing," as Audi Dharmalingam said. I will discuss this point because it is very important.

If we have a Minister of Culture and Citizenship and at the same time a report from the task force on equal opportunities—upon which I am sure the new minister has not had time to work, but I am sure he will consider it seriously—until we have this kind of report, multiculturalism will be meaningless in Ontario and in Canada.

I quote again: "For multiculturalism to be a reality, capable people from ethnic communities must be given influential jobs in government and the institutions 'to make their mark' in Canadian society," he said. 'Only about half a

dozen such people are around, and mostly it's tokenism. In equal opportunities and accessibility to good jobs, multiculturalism has failed miserably.'"

After almost eight years of the existence of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation, and after 10 years of multiculturalism to which this government theoretically subscribes, we have results that are lamentable and we are faced with failure. That is probably the most important reason we speak against this bill.

If the government is serious about encouraging the type of pluralistic society that all of us recognize, then the government should have policies directed towards that purpose.

Audi Dharmalingam was not the only one who had reservations about the achievements of multiculturalism. In the same article Beverley Folkes, a West Indian community worker, is quoted.

Mr. Ruston: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: Will you check to see if we have a quorum?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): We do have a quorum. The honourable member may proceed. In my opinion, there is a quorum.

Mr. Di Santo: Do we have a real quorum?

The Acting Speaker: The member for Downsview may continue to speak to the quorum.

Mr. Di Santo: "Beverley Folkes, a West Indian community worker, said multiculturalism is a 'noble gesture' that, when misinterpreted, divides Canadians.

"The intent was quite good, but we need to rethink our goals," she said.

"The way I see it, it's keeping us divided. There's too much stereotyping of blacks. We need more than songs and dances. People must be educated to think of Canadians instead of West Indian-Canadians, Italian-Canadians and other hyphenated Canadians," she said.

"In the US, Italians, Polish and others identify themselves as Americans," she added. "We don't have the same national pride as Canadians. Trouble is that many believe to be really Canadian one must be white, Anglo-Saxon and Protestant."

The incredible member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Shymko) was given the job of chairman of the Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism and Citizenship when he lost his federal seat, and even that product of patronage had to say that multiculturalism for many Canadians is perceived as "something for the ethnics." If the member for High Park-Swansea came to that

conclusion, that is really a commentary on the policies of this government.

Mr. Ruston: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: Will you check for a quorum, please.

The Acting Speaker ordered the bells to be rung.

4:24 p.m.

The Acting Speaker: The member for Downsview may continue. We have a quorum.

Mr. Di Santo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If even the member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Shymko), who has been given the cosy job of chairman of the Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism and Citizenship, was forced to recognize that after 10 years of multiculturalism and after seven years of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation, multiculturalism was still perceived by Canadians as something for the ethnics. That is a very sad commentary on the policies of this government and on the failure of the policies of this government along those of with the federal government.

We have indulged too long in considering multiculturalism as something that is related to folklorist expressions of the ethnic groups such as choirs, dances and colourful dresses. It is about time we start thinking seriously about this important policy aspect of the government.

As I said before, the government has failed not only in establishing the right policies so that people can understand what the government wants to do in this area but also in implementing the policies it had set for itself when the Ministry of Culture and Recreation was established.

I said before that one of the complaints expressed by the people who were interviewed on the 10th anniversary of the establishment of multiculturalism was the fact that today in our society there is still a perception that nothing has changed within the power structure of this society or, as the late John Porter said, within the vertical mosaic that is Canada.

If we look at the report I mentioned before, the report of the task force on equal opportunity commissioned by the Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism and Citizenship, there were some repercussions in the media because the people who were part of the task force, who were members of the advisory council on multiculturalism and citizenship, felt for reasons that escape my mind that they should not even mention the ethnic groups, most likely because they did not want to embarrass the government. In fact, they lumped them under the expression "others."

If we look at the report, which took into consideration the public agencies, advisory, regulatory or operational, there are some striking conclusions. Of the 272 existing agencies, they considered 84 public agencies, and what came out is quite revealing. Of 877 members of the boards of directors of the commissions and boards, 677 were British, 45 French and 155 others, which means belonging to ethnic groups.

I do not know if the 155 also included the members of the advisory council on multiculturalism and citizenship, because then, the number of "others" would be inflated. The advisory council on multiculturalism and citizenship has been increased from 32 members to the present 60 members. If that is the case, the percentage would be 77 per cent of British origin, 5.1 per cent French and, instead of 17.1 per cent, we would have 10.8 per cent "others."

4:30 p.m.

On motion by Mr. Di Santo, the debate was adjourned.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

MAIL DELIVERY

Mr. Rotenberg, seconded by Mr. McLean, moved resolution 13:

That this House urge the federal government to rescind provisions under section 14 of the Canada Post Corp. Act which prohibit the efficient delivery by businesses and public organizations of their own mail, and, further, that the federal government rescind provisions under section 15 of the Canada Post Corp. Act which control the prices charged by private delivery services and have the effect of giving the post office a monopoly on the delivery of mail in Ontario.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: We have been aware now for some time that the member for Wilson Heights was going to bring in this resolution. I have been giving this matter quite a bit of thought today, ever since I received the Order Paper as to what the business of the House would be today.

I have come to the firm conclusion that this resolution the member is putting before the House today is completely out of order. We, in Ontario, have jurisdiction over all of the agencies, boards and commissions which operate under the jurisdiction of this Legislature by statute. We have jurisdiction and control over all the laws we pass which affect all the ministries and the agencies, boards and commissions,

but I submit to you this Legislature has no legal legislative authority to deal with Canada Post.

I think this member is using this resolution simply as some type of political ploy. It has nothing to do with anything on which any member or cabinet minister in this House can have any kind of impact.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): The honourable member has caused me to reflect on the motion and on the validity thereof. Having listened closely—

Mr. Rotenberg: Mr. Speaker, may I speak on the point of order?

The Acting Speaker: I have the floor. As I see it the motion talks about urging the federal government. It is an act that is not going to affect funds from this House, but the motion itself has an intention—

Mr. Ruston: It is a resolution.

The Acting Speaker: It is a resolution and a recommendation. I do not accept the honourable member's point of privilege.

Mr. Mancini: With all respect, Mr. Speaker, I was not finished.

The Acting Speaker: I listened to you long enough to get the intent and we are in private members' hour. If what you are going on to say is not going to change what I have said, it is affecting the time limit available to those members who want to participate in this debate.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, as a member of this House who holds a seat in this chamber, I resent our spending time when there are all kinds of issues and problems in our jurisdiction on which we can have an impact. I frankly resent it. I consider it a breach of my privileges that this government allows one of its members to introduce this type of resolution when we all know that we can have absolutely no impact on Canada Post.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member has had his say and I do not accept it as a point of privilege. It being private members' hour, the member for Wilson Heights will proceed.

Mr. Rotenberg: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I assume my 20 minutes starts from now and not from when the point of order was raised.

Mr. Kerrio: We could have a few more points of order.

Mr. Rotenberg: I thank the member for Essex South for his point and I respect his opinion but, as you said, Mr. Speaker, this is a matter urging the federal government to do certain things. I

think it has a great impact on members of this House and certainly, as I will explain in a few minutes, on the municipalities within our jurisdiction. Municipal government is a matter for the province of Ontario and we certainly do want to help our municipalities.

I also think this has been a rather strange day because I was informed yesterday that there was a possibility, and at noon today it was a certainty, that this debate would not take place this afternoon. There was going to be an emergency debate and as such, I did not complete the final draft remarks I was going to make.

During the question period, the Minister of Health announced that things were progressing well, the Leader of the Opposition withdrew his request for an emergency debate and suddenly this was thrust upon us again. I will proceed and we can discuss the matter which I think is quite relevant to all the people of Canada.

We took up some resolutions here urging the federal government to take certain acts in respect to the Constitution. It may be that matter was considerably more important than what we have before us today, but at that time nobody suggested that we could not urge the federal government to do something.

There are two related parts in my motion and the first deals with those who want to deliver their own letters. The second deals with those who want to hire someone other than the post office to deliver their letters.

The Canada Post Corp. Act, which was passed last year, says in section 14(1), "Subject to section 15, the corporation has the sole and exclusive privilege of collecting, transmitting and delivering letters to the addressees thereof within Canada."

Section 15(1)(a) suggests this does not apply to letters carried incidentally and delivered to the addressee thereby by a friend of the sender or the addressee. How far does "letters carried incidentally... by a friend" go? What does "incidentally" really mean?

As an example, let us say there is a young couple out there who want to get married and they want to send invitations to about 100 of their friends. Instead of putting them in the mail, because some people do not have too much faith in the mail, they ask one of their friends to go around and deliver 100 wedding invitations to their friends. Is this incidental, because certainly those people would not be going to visit the addressee anyway or would this be in violation of the Canada Post Corp. Act? Would they be allowed to do it? The act

exempts friends, but the act says nothing about a person doing it himself.

The act is silent on this but the act could certainly be interpreted to mean that anybody can walk around and deliver their own letters. The act says that the corporation has the sole and exclusive privilege of collecting, transmitting and delivering letters, with the exception of friends carrying them. Using this young couple as an example, would they be allowed to go out and deliver their own wedding invitations or would they be in violation of the act and have to spend 30 cents and hope the post office would get them there in time?

What about small businessmen, such as a gardener who works on a number of streets in Toronto and other places, a gardener who may work in the gardens of a couple of dozen homes on a street and who sends out his bills once a month? The gardener who works on my street comes around once a month and personally delivers the bills to all the home owners he services. This is not incidental to a visit; this is a delivery of mail. Is that self-employed, one-man-firm gardener prohibited from walking around and delivering his monthly bills to his customers?

Can he have one of his employees, if he has a helper, someone he pays, go around once a month and deliver the bills to his customers who are all on the same street; or does he have to spend 30 cents on each and hope they get there?

Mr. Boudria: What does that have to do with this Legislature?

Mr. Rotenberg: We are trying to tell the federal government, my friend, that the legislation is a little bit wrong and I think we can do that.

What about the insurance agent or the travel agent who likes to give personal service and deliver the insurance policy or airline tickets to his client? He does so on a regular basis, not casually or incidentally. Is he in violation of the law? Is he not allowed to do this any more?

Logic dictates that anyone can deliver his own mail, but can this insurance agent or travel agent do it himself or have one of his regular employees deliver the insurance policy or the tickets? Logic says, "Sure, of course we can do this sort of thing;" but since when has the post office been logical? Because if a gardener, an insurance agent, a travel agent or any of their employees can deliver these matters as a special service to their valued clients, why cannot

larger businesses deliver bills or have them delivered by their employees?

4:40 p.m.

I think a case can be made for this. The case to be made is that it goes beyond just the post office trying to make a living or having a monopoly; I think it gets into the area of human and civil rights, denying the civil right of a person to deliver his own mail or have his employees deliver his mail. Why should he have to go to the post office?

We should look at the new Constitution. I do not know if anyone has discovered this or not, but I think a basic right is being infringed in this situation. Why should any government or government agency be able to tell any person, or business, that he cannot deliver his own mail?

This leads into an area of current controversy. One of the members from the Kitchener area is with us, but the member for Kitchener (Mr. Breithaupt) is not. The city of Kitchener, a corporation, is now delivering its own utility bills, and the post office is saying to the city of Kitchener, "You cannot deliver your own utility bills because of this section in the act."

Why should the post office, as a public corporation, have the right to tell the city of Kitchener, another public corporation, that it cannot deliver its own utility bills, which Kitchener is doing for eight cents apiece? Why should the post office say it is going to do it for the city of Kitchener at its very special rate of 21 cents apiece? It is not 30 cents; they have a special rate for things like bills that go to every house.

Why should the taxpayers of Kitchener, who are paying for it, have to subsidize the federal treasury, through the Canada Post Corp., by 13 cents for each utility bill delivered in Kitchener? Why should the taxpayers of Kitchener have to pay thousands of dollars each year because of the post office's inefficiency and excessive costs?

The post office has about 24,000 inside workers, who are now getting about \$23,000 a year plus fringe benefits for doing what is really unskilled labour. Before anyone opposite jumps on me, I am not saying the problems are exclusively with labour or with the unions; I am not saying the unions should not be out there fighting for their members and getting as much as they can.

What I am saying is that when the employees of the post office are getting much higher wages for doing the same work as similar employees in our provincial government—granted, there are far fewer people doing our mail, and they get about \$15,000 a year—or employees in private

industry, who are getting far less per hour or per year than the employees of the post office, we can see why the post office has such high rates and why it cannot compete with the city of Kitchener. If you add these much higher labour costs, resistance to automation and the legendary inefficiency of the post office management—because a lot of the problem is with the management of the post office, and this has not been corrected by the new management in the post office—we can see what the problem is.

The city of Kitchener is already, in effect, challenging the post office and saying, "We are going to deliver our bills anyway," and it does it at eight cents.

The city of Guelph, which has not done it yet, says it can do it for nine cents. The borough of York—and I am glad to see one of the members from the borough of York here—wanted to do this. But they thought they might be in violation of the law and decided not to. Many other municipalities are looking into it.

To get back to the original point of order, which was what this has to do with this Legislature, I am making a case on behalf of the municipalities, which are the creatures of this province and are under our jurisdiction; I am making this case so that the municipalities of this province will be able to deliver their own utility bills. They can do it for less than half the cost the post office is charging.

This is just one minor reason we are not only not wrestling inflation to the ground but are not even making a dent in inflation. The federal government and others are imposing these extra costs on municipalities, and they reflect on the whole system. Their inefficiency, and pushing these costs on to other people are reasons—not the only reasons—that inflation is still over 11 per cent in this country.

The new genius who is now running the post office, our old friend Michael Warren, said in a recent speech, "Of course, financial self-sufficiency is the bottom line of any sound business." He was talking about his own post office. "It provides a discipline to all that the corporation does. It provides the incentive to meet the needs of customers and to challenge the competition." That is what Mr. Warren said about the post office: it should be able to challenge the competition.

This brings me to the second part of the motion, section 15(1)(e), which says, in effect, that any person other than the post office delivering letters of an urgent nature transmitted by messenger must set a fee equal to an

amount at least three times the regular postage rate. In other words, a courier must charge a minimum of 90 cents to deliver a letter which the post office delivers a few days later for 30 cents. Where, I say, does this fit into Mr. Warren's request for competition?

Moreover, why should the post office or any governmental agency be allowed unilaterally to set fees for someone else doing a similar job? Why should they be able unilaterally to set fees for their competition, be able to say, "We will deliver it at 30 cents; a courier must charge 90 cents"?

Why should rates be established by the post office? At least if they want to do this—and I must say, there is some merit in the post office trying to regulate the courier, far more merit than in trying to prevent Kitchener from delivering its own mail—if they want to do it, why do they not do it in a similar way to Hydro rates and other rates being set? Why should they not have to go to an agency, like the National Energy Board or the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission? Why should the post office, in setting rates for couriers, not have to go to a body like the CRTC or the Ontario Energy Board or all those others which regulate rates where there is competition?

Why should the post office not have to face a hearing? In the post office they say, "We charge 30 cents, the courier must charge 90 cents." Why should they not be required to open their books to reveal their costs and explain why they are so high?

What I am saying is that the post office is taking two directions in their latest act, one of which prevents individuals, businesses and municipalities from delivering their own mail and makes them pay much extra money. The second allows the post office to set rates for their competition without hearings and without the competition being heard.

I think both of these approaches are wrong. I suggest we say to the federal government that we, as a provincial Legislature wish, first, to protect our small businessmen and our municipalities; and second, to provide a degree of fair competition to courier services. I suggest we say to the federal government: "Come on, fellows, have another look at this. Be fair, allow people to deliver their own mail and allow competition at least a fair chance in a proper hearing."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to reserve my time left over.

The Acting Speaker: You have seven minutes left.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I was invited to speak briefly to this important federal matter raised by the member for Wilson Heights. I am surprised that the member did not choose to run in a federal by-election at some time or even in the last federal general election.

It is interesting to note that the party that member represents spent most of the time prior to the last federal election bashing its own federal counterpart of the same political persuasion to ensure it would not be re-elected federally.

Now we see these same people, the Conservative Party in this province and some members of that particular caucus, spending time again today, fed-bashing. Fed-bashing is not just an individual policy of some members of the Legislature sitting on the government side. It appears to be policy of the Progressive Conservative Party of this province to fed-bash when it is opportune to do so.

Let us reflect on a time prior to the last provincial election. At that time they were not fed-bashing. They were 100 per cent with the federal government because it was politically expedient for the people of that party to be so.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, objectively, any person in a position of neutrality in this House, such as yourself, would undoubtedly agree that this is exactly what is going on. I am sure you, in your most nonpartisan way, will agree with what I am saying.

Let us remember what went on in the last few weeks. On this side of the House, we have seen members contributing to private members' hour with excellent private members' bills on excellent provincial issues, very important things that go on in this province.

4:50 p.m.

One can recollect the resolution of last week moved by the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney), on a very important topic. One can think of the resolution of the previous week from the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley), again on an issue that people of this province are legitimately concerned about. That, of course, was the issue of whether the government of this province should use the hard-earned taxpayers' dollars to purchase an executive jet.

Mr. Kerrio: To deliver mail.

Mr. Boudria: Maybe not for delivering mail, but for delivering members of that particular political party.

Here we have the member for Wilson Heights

discussing a federal issue. Could it be he does not see that this government has a responsibility? Does he think the exclusive job of his particular party is to bash the federal government, because doing that may happen to have votes in it at that particular time? That is all we are witnessing.

What I was saying a few minutes ago is that members on this side of the House of both political parties provide excellent—

The Acting Speaker: Order. The member for Wilson Heights has a point of personal privilege.

Mr. Rotenberg: Mr. Speaker, in the last several minutes, the member for Prescott-Russell has accused me on three or four occasions of backing the federal Liberal Party in the last federal election. Nothing can be farther from the truth. I would ask him to withdraw that remark, because I find it insulting to me to indicate that I backed the federal government in the last election.

Mr. Boudria: If I can respond to that point, Mr. Speaker, and you obviously did not recognize it as being very valid because you did not stand up, I did not say that. If the member had listened, I accused him of bashing his own federal party prior to the last federal election, not the Liberals. Now he is bashing now the federal Liberals as a political party every single day in this House, and he just did so less than 10 minutes ago in his speech. I do not think the member can deny that, because that is exactly what he was doing.

Let us get to some of the important matters that the member discussed. He discussed the fact that the post office has an exclusive right to deliver mail. How unique for a federal post office to have the exclusive right to deliver mail. That is supposed what we are considering in the provincial Legislature at this time.

Maybe the member does not consider there are any other problems in this province right now. Maybe there is total employment in his constituency. Maybe there are no welfare cases. Maybe the one or two welfare cases there are receive more than the welfare cases in my area, who are receiving 67 per cent of what is the poverty line. Maybe there are no people waiting for public housing in the member's constituency.

I can only gather there are no such problems in that riding and that is why the member, having nothing better to do, has decided to raise federal issues in this Legislature. Otherwise,

what possible logical reasoning could there be for doing such a thing?

In any case, I want to discuss the business of these monopolies in this great country we have. We know the post office has a monopoly to deliver mail. After all, the post office is designed to do just that, deliver mail. We have a government in this province that has a monopoly on the distribution of electricity to most of the province. How much competition does Ontario Hydro have? It is not even required to justify to anybody what it is doing. It is becoming obvious to each and every one of us that Ontario Hydro does not even have a boss. It does what it likes, and whenever it bloody well feels like doing it.

We also have in this province an outfit known as the Liquor Control Board of Ontario. Although one may argue that we should not have 15 different companies criss-crossing all over the place with hydro wires, it is very difficult to rationalize the same kind of thinking when it comes to selling a case of Labatt's 50. Surely that is not so difficult to do, but it is a regulated monopoly. It is a private one in that particular case, but a regulated monopoly to sell beer. I suppose because it is such a complicated thing, nobody except the government should have a stranglehold on that particular industry. Because it is such a difficult thing, nobody else could possibly do it right.

It is tantamount to giving an exclusive franchise for hamburger joints because nobody else could do it properly except the government. That is the kind of reasoning we have when this government says we have to have Brewers' Retail exclusively selling beer or the Liquor Control Board of Ontario exclusively selling wine.

This government, which has that set of priorities, is allowing things to happen in my own constituency and other areas of the province. The members may remember that I raised an important matter in this House about a dump site in my riding known as the Huneault dump. People were depositing debris illegally at the Huneault dump in my area. The operator of the dump did not even have a licence. None of those things were properly regulated.

People are poisoning our environment and meanwhile this government does not take the time or the care to ensure proper licensing is done because it is too busy regulating beer instead of our environment, or it is too busy raising matters in this Legislature which more properly pertain to the federal government.

What kind of priorities does this government have?

Mr. Worton: None.

Mr. Boudria: The member for Wellington South says "none." That is obvious. Whatever priorities it has are extremely strange to say the least.

Mr. Kerrio: That is what the Tory members do in Ottawa.

Mr. Boudria: Let us talk about the Tory members in Ottawa.

Mr. Robinson: Yes, Let's talk about the Tory government in Ottawa.

Mr. Boudria: I said the Tory members in Ottawa; there is no Tory government in Ottawa and it will probably take a long time before we see a Tory government there. I am sure the member would recognize that.

The member spent most of his time bashing the federal government but also quoted federal public servants. How many times does that member recall a Liberal member in Ottawa rising in his place in the House of Commons and making a long, passionate speech bashing Hugh Macaulay or some other provincial public servant? That has probably never happened because the federal Liberals have too much sense than to spend their valuable time in the kind of ridiculous nonsense now going on in this Legislature. That is the priority we see this government having.

Mr. Worton: Even the Tories criticized Davis on the environment.

Mr. Boudria: The member for Wellington South says the Tories criticized the Premier (Mr. Davis) on the environment. That is quite true. I am glad to have participated in this debate.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, I find the resolution before us fascinating, not because of its substance but because of the way in which the vote will go when it is called later today, because I assume the Conservative caucus is not going to block a vote on one of their own member's private resolutions.

Mr. Kerrio: Oh, sure they will.

Mr. Wrye: Don't assume anything with those guys.

Mr. Renwick: It would say quite a bit if 20 Tory members stood to block this resolution. It would perhaps answer the member for Wilson Heights in a way that he might finally understand.

The vote itself would be quite fascinating. I

would be interested in the vote of the member for Cochrane North. (Mr. Piché) I would be extremely interested in the vote of the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere; (Mr. Robinson) and I would, of course, be fascinated by the vote of the Minister for Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier) from the extensive and vast riding of Kenora.

What my friend is saying in his resolution, disguised as a plea for the little fellow and as a plea for the cost of municipal government is, in fact, a plea for a special privilege. He does not want anybody to have the benefit across Canada of a single, basic postal rate regardless of where he lives and regardless of the cost or the expense which is involved in doing it.

He comes before this assembly with the temerity to ask us to urge the federal government, after extensive discussions and debates in that assembly, to reverse a monopoly which, for very good reasons, has existed for 100 years in this country.

What the member is really talking about is the little Canada, the parochial Canada, where everybody in his own little place seeks some minor advantage over his fellow citizen at the expense of people elsewhere.

5 p.m.

We stand for equality. We stand for the idea, as Voltaire put it, if I may paraphrase him, that the rich man and the poor man are both entitled as a right in Canada to an equal delay in the delivery of their mail. No one should ever want to breach that principle in this country in favour of certain persons.

I am not going to read the exclusive privilege which the post office has by law, nor am I going to read out the exceptions the member has spoken about. To my knowledge there has not been an attempt by the post office to enforce in the courts their exclusive privilege. They rely on the common sense of the municipal councils and of the people of Canada to support the absolutely essential purpose of the post office, which is to provide a national service for the delivery of mail everywhere in Canada at a flat basic rate.

The member for Wilson Heights knows, if he thinks about it very clearly, that in order to do that one must assure the post office of a basic volume of mail and a basic revenue from the delivery of that mail. That permits mail to be delivered in Scarborough-Ellesmere, in Kenora, in Cochrane North—

Mr. MacDonald: And Inuvik.

Mr. Renwick: —in Inuvik and elsewhere throughout this country. After all, we were celebrating the event which we hope will lead to the union of Canada, not to its disunion.

I can well understand the member for Wilson Heights, if he will permit a personal comment. I have noticed that one of the things that people who come from the insurance industry are very skilled at spotting is where they can cream the business. That is the principle of insurance: you cream off the good business and leave everybody else to pick up the cost of the other business. That is the basic defect.

The member put forward the proposition that one could not deliver 150 wedding invitations without running afoul of the law. The member expects us to accept that ridiculous proposition. We cannot accept that ridiculous proposition any more than we can accept the ridiculous resolution which is in front of us today.

One need not go on at any great length, but there is not a single member of a rural riding in this assembly, not a single member of a riding from northern Ontario, not a single person living in the suburbs of a metropolitan area, who is going to dare to attack the monopoly or exclusive privilege of the Canada Post Corp. because of some inner-core operation that might provide a minor saving to a large business organization that might be able to avail itself of a private courier to deliver its mail.

One needs only talk to the people who are in the Canada Post Corp., trying to run it on an efficient and able basis, to understand that they have made all sorts of adjustments in special circumstances to permit the exceptions to be made without destroying the basic mandate which they must fulfil.

It is not a question of monopoly or privilege for the purpose of providing private profit. It is a monopoly and a privilege in order that they can fulfil the basic mandate that was agreed upon at the time of Confederation. It is why it is a federal matter. It is why it has existed for 100 years. It is why it has been reaffirmed recently by members of the House of Commons and by the Senate of Canada in the restructuring of the Canada Post Corp. to permit it to adapt itself to modern conditions to fulfil that mandate.

I say to the member for Wilson Heights, I think he is ill advised to bring this resolution into the assembly; I think he is ill advised to stand in his place and support the Conservative mayor for Kitchener in what is, on the face of it, a very close run with the law.

Mr. Haggerty: Who is the president of the Canada Post Corp. now? Isn't it that great Tory, Michael Warren?

Mr. Renwick: Yes, he is a great Tory. As a matter of fact, but for 29 votes he would have sat here for the New Democratic Party. He has never been able to make it here since; so he has joined the Tories.

Of course, if you examine those communities that are running close to the law, it is the very small-c conservative members of municipal councils who are supporting that kind of attack on this basic and fundamental obligation which the post office has.

To have the member for Wilson Heights distort as a civil liberty the right of everybody to deliver his own mail in the face of the equality of people in Canada, each to be able to receive and send mail at a basic rate anywhere in Canada at any time, is to me the kind of distortion that we cannot tolerate.

I rather wish that this were in the House of Commons in Ottawa so it would have somewhat more merit than it has here. But this party stands for Canada, this party stands for equality in the treatment of individual citizens and this party stands, where necessary, for government to provide the essential mandates of service at a basic level throughout the country. We will always withstand the kind of attack made in the name of privilege by the member for Wilson Heights.

Mr. Dean: Mr. Speaker, I have no reluctance in rising to support this motion by my colleague the member for Wilson Heights.

The mere mention of the post office these days is enough to provoke outbursts of some sort from people, either of outrage or of laughter. Even though the post office—or Canada Post as it is called now—is a federal responsibility, I am sure almost all of us have heard something about the subject that makes us shake our heads in disbelief, some story about their inefficient operation or the improper delivery of something that was entrusted to them. Sometimes the items never arrive at all, having been swallowed up by whatever monster may lurk in the depths of the mail sorting operation. Just yesterday, for example, my daughter received a letter in Stoney Creek that had been sent from Toronto in February of this year. Maybe the monster dealing with it was a groundhog or something that does not do anything until spring arrives and then it finally comes out.

Besides scandalous delays in delivery, however, there is an equally serious problem that

besets the postal system, the security of mail. Just over a year ago, on March 17, 1981, the report of the commission of inquiry into post office security described security as "inadequate," which was certainly a charitable word. The losses because of theft, vandalism and arson that the commission investigated affected individuals, private businesses, public utilities and municipal governments—almost anyone who used the postal service.

Until the Canada Post Corp. Act was brought into being, private and public bodies had the right to choose between the post office and a number of private carriers for their mailings. Now, however, this act gives the Canada Post Corp. "the sole and exclusive privilege of collecting, transmitting and delivering letters to the addressee thereof within Canada."

There is the exception that businesses can send urgent letters by private messenger or courier, provided their fee is at least three times the rate of the postage payable for delivery by Canada Post. As a result, users must make use of the Canada Post Corp. whether or not they believe the security of their mail is adequately protected, and it is not.

5:10 p.m.

For example, the commission of investigation documented a figure of losses of about \$4.3 million for the 1979-80 year; and that covered all types of mail, including registered mail, insured mail, money packets and so on. But the most surprising bit of information they uncovered was not simply the huge dollar amount of loss they could verify, but the fact that the post office did not know how much more was lost because of theft, vandalism and arson.

The report went on to state, "It is clear from the chasm that separates the stated security objectives from the actual security practices that the post office has never determined the priority which must be given to security." As a result, a great many businesses would prefer to use private delivery services. So would a lot of people who have an important letter they do not want to lose in transit, especially if the rates of delivery of these private services were competitive with those of the Canada Post Corp. I am aware that is a much debated point.

On the one hand, as has been indicated by the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick), the removal of anything that might cost less per unit would raise the unit cost of those items that were left and the post office would be making less money—or losing more money, is a better way of saying it, I guess—because its costs and rates

would reflect the costs of maintaining the more expensive services in certain parts of the country. Because of that, the taxpayers would end up supporting post office deficits, because the post office would be required to maintain the non-profit routes.

On the other hand, by giving the post office a virtual monopoly on delivery of letters and other mail in the country, the federal government has left us at the mercy of what everyone agrees is a poor labour relations situation at the post office with its consequences.

During a strike, I hardly need to say, taxpayers, businesses and charitable organizations which raise funds by mail, and ordinary individuals, all suffer. We who are taxpayers municipally suffer because the municipalities and the public utilities cannot deliver their bills, and as a result their cash flow is interrupted, requiring more charges for borrowing money.

When it was possible to do otherwise, public utilities or hydro commissions could deliver their bills by hand under those emergency conditions. For example, in my home town of Stoney Creek last summer, when the postal strike was on, to avoid losing their steady cash flow they hired students to deliver their accounts, which amounted to 12,000 a month, to home owners by hand for nine cents apiece. Now that is prohibited, and they have to pay 30 cents; or there is a magnanimous concession by the Canada Post Corp. that if the mail is all sorted out in nicely packaged bundles according to postal code, Canada Post will deliver them for the cheap amount of 21 cents. That is still two and a third times what it would cost to deliver by hand. Do they call that service? I do not think that is service; that is adding unnecessary cost.

In spite of many briefs to the federal committee that has studied the bill, however, no provision was included in the legislation to allow for private carriers to deliver such essential mail during the stoppage in postal service.

I sincerely hope that the Canada Post Corp. will have a better relations record with its labour than the previous post office. I expect it will. However, either the federal government was somewhat naïve to assume that labour stoppages would not occur under the new legislation or it just did not care to consider the negative impact of future postal strikes.

In fact, last summer the then Postmaster General made the comment that he could not accept the argument that businesses have to rely on the post office. "If they do," he said, "they had better find other ways." Was that not nice?

Then the legislation did not permit any other ways. It seems to me the Postmaster General really did not have any concern about what happened to his clients. He was completely out of touch with the business world.

Many of us know small charitable organizations and small businesses that had serious losses of revenue last year when the strike was on. We lost, too, because when businesses suffer and jobs are lost as a result of postal disruptions and the inability of businesses to keep up their cash flow by other means of delivering their accounts, we pay through unemployment insurance costs.

The federal government has ensured by this legislation that any future strike will be more crippling to the province than previous ones. I think it is a shame, but this is the way it is, because the Canada Post Corp., its management and its employees, should first prove to the people they are worthy of having this monopoly that has been given to them. The past record does not give us any cause for satisfaction.

Until efficiency and dependable service can be guaranteed to the public, these monopoly powers should not be inflicted upon us and our fellow citizens. We should still have the option of using alternative, efficient delivery services. I urge all members to support this resolution.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Niagara Falls.

Mr. Kerrio: No.

The Deputy Speaker: I am sorry. You were talking all through the previous 10 minutes of debate; so I thought you wanted the floor.

Mr. Kerrio: I resemble that remark.

Mr. Ruston: Mr. Speaker, this is rather a strange resolution to have before this Legislature. Once in a while when I am not home there will be a call for me; my wife will say, "He is not home," and the caller will say, "I suppose he is in Ottawa." Some people perhaps do think we are in Ottawa running things. I guess the member for Wilson Heights thinks he should be in Ottawa; I do not know.

Mr. Nixon: They think you get Ottawa pay, Dick.

Mr. Ruston: No, that is one thing we do not get, by a long shot.

It is typical of the government of the day and especially the Premier (Mr. Davis), whom I have called Slippery Bill for the past couple of years. Old Slippery Bill slides in and out of those baggy pants whenever he is in Ottawa.

A year or two ago he slid out of the pants and

slipped into bed with Trudeau on the Constitution; he put on those baggy pants and went around and was nice. He was all gung-ho with Ottawa as long as the Constitution talks were going on, and he and Pierre were buddy-buddy.

The strange thing is, as soon as that was all over and he had his majority, he said, "Boy, now's the time to get him." During that cycle, of course, when Mr. Clark decided to raise the gasoline excise tax by 18 cents, Slippery Bill got a little worried; so he said: "I'll fix you, Joe. You've had it." He cooked his goose when the election came around. Slippery Bill went to his condominium in Florida and spent a few nice days there to get out of having to campaign for poor old Joe.

He has been playing that game ever since I was first elected to this place in 1967. We can read back history and recall Mr. Hepburn and some of his tirades against Mackenzie King. I do not remember them all; there are other people here much more qualified to remember some of them. But I think Slippery Bill has been doing it a little more smoothly; he was jumping from one side to the other. Hepburn had only side; he was always against Mackenzie King.

I think of Ontario Hydro. Why do we not have a resolution here today on Ontario Hydro, telling it that it should send its bills by courier to every one of the rural Hydro users in Ontario? We would find out in one year how much they would want to do that. Start sending couriers up to the boondocks, where there is a house every mile or two miles, or every 20 miles sometimes, and we will find out.

The member for Riverdale covered this very well when he said, "Sure, it is great to pick up the choicest parts there are to deliver a little mail to, but what about the people who made this country?" After all, the post office really had a lot to do with making the country, forming the little towns and villages.

5:20 p.m.

As one looks over history to see when a town was formed, one notices the first thing that was there was the post office. In my own little village the post office came to what they called North Woodslee. When the railway came through about 10 or 15 years later, that is where the settlement went; so the post office was moved out of there—that was just down the road from me—and moved up to Woodslee, where it has been ever since. Many villages were built around the post office and the services it offered.

To do away with the post office system, as the member for Wilson Heights is trying to do, is

absolutely ridiculous. I do not know why he did not bring in a resolution against metric. The new Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Elgie) was on the radio in Windsor just a couple of weeks ago, saying how great the metric system was, how he wanted it to continue and how there would be absolutely no stopping it as far as he was concerned. The member for Leeds (Mr. Runciman) has spoken on that a great deal.

It is a wonder that the member for Wilson Heights has not brought in something like that, because this government does have something to do with metric. If they had wanted, they could have stopped it, but they never did; they just passed the rules to come along. The Premier went along with Pierre then. But when things did not look so good, he went against him.

I was reading an editorial the other day, called Editor's View, in the Ontario Medical Association's bulletin. It is interesting how the Premier handles things:

"The profession has been tolerant. It has accepted a litany of government excuses over the years: 'That is all the money there is in the Treasury.' Or 'The feds have imposed anti-inflation regulations.' 'We are a minority government and can't risk defeat over medical fees.' 'Trust us; we are the best friends you have at Queen's Park.' 'Help keep the promise.' 'Davis can do it.'"

That is the way the Premier operates; it is always a promise or whatever. But when things get a little tough, he soon finds that he wants to dissociate himself completely from the federal government.

The Liquor Control Board of Ontario has the greatest monopoly in Ontario; the government operates it completely. As some others have mentioned, there is no reason at all why the government cannot bring in a resolution saying it would like to see it turned over partly to private companies if it wanted to dispose of that great asset and great tax collector. But they did not bring that in at all.

The member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini) was correct when he got up a while ago and said that the resolution was out of order in this Legislature and that it has no bearing on our operations here.

If we were to take all the cities out of the Canadian Broadcasting Corp., I wonder what would happen. That is government-operated, and we have a mass of people employed in the CBC in Toronto. Maybe we do not need them. Why did the member not bring in a resolution

about something like that? I could agree with him if he brought in something like that. However, it is irrelevant, because it is not our responsibility.

A few years ago, before they brought in the modern transportation systems, the computers and so forth, when I was in business in the little village of Woodslee, 20 miles from Windsor, we could put a letter in the mail at four o'clock in the afternoon, it would go into Windsor at 5:30 by truck, and it would be put on the train that evening at seven or eight o'clock. There were people in the trains who sorted the mail. It got to Toronto at 7 o'clock the next morning, it was sent to the post office and that afternoon was delivered to the businesses to which it was being sent. At that time, there were two deliveries a day.

Nowadays, even using the computers and airplanes, mail delivery takes a little longer. While these things speed it up, they forget that these things can break down and do not always work that well. I suppose that is one of the problems that anybody in business has today.

Mr. Boudria: That government does not work that well either.

Mr. Ruston: It really is not worth the effort to speak on a matter that has no relevance in this Legislature. I just want to say that it is too bad our private members' hour has got to the point where we are discussing things that are irrelevant; so I might as well sit down.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, I want to speak in opposition to this resolution. In fact, I am a little sad to see the resolution printed on the Order Paper.

I understand that there is in the public mind a good deal of misunderstanding about what governments can or should do and how well they operate and that it is therefore very easy for the public at large to find a symbol and then just willy-nilly label that symbolic institution, in this case the post office, as being totally bad, totally wrong, having no virtue at all.

Therefore, it saddens me somewhat when I see someone who is a member of this Legislature adopt much the same attitude. I suppose it is based on the premise that the private sector always can do much better than the public sector. I used to hear that a lot in my community, particularly from people from private corporations; of course, in Oshawa that is the automotive business. There used to be a strongly held feeling there that the private sector could do no

wrong and the public sector could do nothing right.

We do not hear a lot of executives from North American automobile industries these days claiming their virtue at building a fine product without sin. This is particularly true in Oshawa since the little sale of the Malibus to the Saudis went over the hill. We do not hear a lot of people there crowing that they build a product that is without error. There is that myth out there, but at least a legislator ought to be able to recognize that is a myth and not necessarily true.

I find it particularly strange that a member of a government that is very heavily into monopolies, that is very strongly identified with Ontario Hydro and the Liquor Control Board of Ontario and with racetracks and the numbers racket, is so adamant that it is okay for his government to have a monopoly but that in this instance it is not all right for the federal government.

I would have hoped that most legislators would have understood the reason behind these special privileges of the Canada Post Corp. We at least, as legislators, do have an obligation to understand that we are providing or trying to provide in this country a postal service which in large measure depends on high-density usage in the urban areas to help out those rural areas that cannot quite have that kind of cheap service.

I am told by my friend the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) that in Schreiber they pay \$22 a year for the privilege of going to the post office. They are given two sets of keys; one unlocks the door and one unlocks the postal box. Compare that postal service to the kind of door-to-door delivery that most people in southern Ontario enjoy.

I would have hoped members of the Legislature here would have understood that part and parcel of the process is to provide a balanced postal system. In my view, it does so, although not as efficiently as it ought to. But again I would refer back to earlier members' comments that the federal House has had major debates for some periods of time, has attempted to provide new legislation and a new structure for the post office so it can become the kind of service all of us want it to be. It does not stand much of a chance to do that if it has to fight a rearguard action because it might save municipalities some money somewhere.

Again, I think a member of the Legislature has an obligation to think through the ramifications of this. There are unfortunate spinoffs.

5:30 p.m.

In an indirect way, the honourable member is proposing the expansion of child labour. There will not be a lot of corporate executives going door to door to deliver these bills. It will be done by kids. So in a sense he is proposing in a very polite way that children once again be exploited for the purpose of municipalities or businesses that want to deliver their letters in an urban area at a cheaper rate. I hardly think that is fair.

The member would then have to move to the second group that normally participates in this kind of operation and that is transients, in other words, adults. He is saying he would get around the minimum wage law in this province by providing this kind of piecework. That hardly seems to be a desirable end to the process, yet that is what it is.

Mr. Rotenberg: Where did you get that from? I never said anything like that.

Mr. Breagh: The member for Wilson Heights chooses to ignore the ramifications of this. He chooses to say this will have no impact on Canada Post or on the kids or transients who will deliver these things. He chooses to ignore all that. I always thought a member of a Legislature like this one gets paid to sit in here and examine carefully all the ramifications of things that are proposed.

A member of the Legislature does not have the luxury of a casual conversation on the street. He has an obligation to look at what he is proposing, to examine all the ramifications, to see the good and bad on each side of an argument.

Frankly, I am disappointed that I have seen a number of people in municipal politics choose to take the same attitude, to ignore the ramifications of this concept and look only at saving some money. If it would do some good on a large scale, I suppose it would be a supportable notion. If we were talking about putting a delivery system into the private sector in an organized shop at union rates, at least it would create some jobs, but we know it will not do that.

We also know it will impact in a very bad way on many parts of Canada outside of southern Ontario. In rural Ontario and other parts of the country, it will impact in a very negative way at a time when Canada Post is attempting to correct some of the things it has not done well and to provide a better service across the country.

I listened once again this afternoon during the course of the debate to individual members citing cases of letters that arrived late. In my experience, my letters and bills arrive early.

Very few of them arrive late. I am always amazed that Canada Post can provide that kind of service at that cost. I find that phenomenal when one looks at the amount of mail it distributes and the kind of task it has to undertake. Frankly, I think it does an admirable job.

It is not without fault and that has been recognized in the setting up of the new corporation. It has acknowledged that it has problems internally, but I think it is our job as well to acknowledge that we have an obligation as legislators not to bring in this kind of resolution. We should exhibit to the public at large that we understand the process better perhaps than the individual person on the street.

We understand that the provision of postal services across this country is extremely important in a number of ways. It is important in economic terms, in terms of a national identity and in terms of communication. For that service, we have entered into the provision of postal services under special conditions, but that is certainly not abnormal in Ontario.

I find the resolution a bit on the offensive side. If it had been a conversation on the street, perhaps it would be defensible, but I do not think it is for a member of this Legislature to bring in this kind of resolution. The ramifications are severely negative and members of the Legislature, above all else, are supposed to understand those things.

Mr. Robinson: Mr. Speaker, it certainly has been an interesting debate. No matter what one's position, I think we have to realize that some of the monopoly powers of the post office are causing a great deal of difficulty, not only for individuals but for many of the public services in our country.

While we may not entirely notice the fallout from the new Canada Post Corp. Act yet, other than the much renowned and criticized cost of postage, there is no doubt we are also paying more to Canada Post in many other ways that are not quite as obvious.

It is ironic that the postal corporation was given monopoly powers at a time when the federal government, through its own legislative initiatives through the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, is encouraging combines legislation that should ensure competition and fair play in the marketplace.

Mr. Di Santo: Oh, shut up.

Mr. Havrot: Nobody ever told you to do that. You have a lot of nerve.

Mr. Robinson: Lack of direction in that kind of Ottawa policy area certainly does not enhance the image of the federal government. Whatever positive image the Canada Post Corp. may have now—

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I do not think the member in the back row of the New Democratic Party should be talking like that. I think he should apologize.

Mr. Kerrio: What did he say?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: He said, "Shut up."

Mr. Boudria: He has a right to say that.

Mr. Di Santo: Mr. Speaker, my reaction was prompted by the nonsense the member was saying, but I withdraw the words.

The Deputy Speaker: I appreciate the withdrawal. The chair unfortunately did not hear any comment, although it heard the laughter afterwards. I thank the whip for pointing it out.

Mr. Breagh: That was great, Bud.

Mr. Robinson: Mr. Speaker, if that comment was directed at me, I am sorry something I said induced or invoked it. It has always been my attitude in this House, particularly in private members' hour, that as private members we have an opportunity to try to bring forth whatever our modest talents and abilities might permit as to our own points of view or interest on any item before this House.

In the past, strikes by the post office and the postal service have always created hardship for many private enterprises. The effect of a postal strike on cash flow is significant and many businesses undergo many pressures during the prolonged mail stoppages. Last summer's strike did at least a recorded \$3 billion in damage to small and medium-sized businesses across the country, as reported by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business.

These businesses not only suffered financially, but many of their employees were laid off. While in some cases the layoffs may have been temporary, in many cases they went on to become permanent. Almost two million man-days of labour were lost to this country during that strike, a loss which affected many more people than the individuals directly concerned.

These two million man-days represented not only less business for many enterprises, but less revenue in the form of income tax for the federal government and often more expenditures in unemployment insurance paid by that government during that labour stoppage.

We should also remember this strike took

place before the proclamation of the Canada Post Corp. Act. During that strike many local delivery services were in existence as well as the more well-known nationally operating courier services. Now that the earlier post office legislation has been replaced by the Canada Post Corp. Act, the situation has changed.

Mail delivery by these companies is now becoming prohibitive. If in a year or so we face another postal strike, the effects on business enterprises, municipalities, public utilities and individuals will be even worse.

In earlier situations, private delivery companies could deliver fairly important mail such as bills and invoices for any organization that had—

Mr. Di Santo: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I would like to ask for your advice. According to the standing orders, are the members permitted to read their speeches in full?

The Deputy Speaker: The chair rules that is not a valid point of order.

Mr. Breagh: It certainly is.

Mr. Boudria: Who wrote it for you?

Mr. Kerrio: Never mind who wrote it. Who delivered it?

Mr. Wildman: He is just consulting extensively from notes.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member has the floor.

Mr. Robinson: It is always nice to have a little help from one's friends, Mr. Speaker.

The new legislation has done away with private carriers unless the customer is willing to pay a minimum of three times the amount necessary for a regular letter. When the strike comes, there will not be any carriers geared up or in a position to deal with fairly important mail across this country and we will be the worse off for it.

5:40 p.m.

One of the groups hardest hit by the new legislation are the public utilities across this country. Many of these agencies employ people solely for the purpose of sorting and delivering bills. They had direct control over the process of distributing bills; it was done efficiently and quickly.

I will provide the members with some examples. North York Hydro, for example, hired part-time workers, and delivery was guaranteed within two days. By using only half a dozen students, North York Hydro was able to save its customers \$45,000 last year by not using the

mails. When one considers just how effective these part-time deliverers were in dealing with more than 500,000 bills over the year, I for one am not surprised that there has been a certain reluctance on the part of utilities to switch over to the Canada Post Corp. for the delivery of these bills.

The cost of this reliable service worked out to about 10 cents a bill. That is just one thin dime, one tenth of a dollar. The post office, in all its generosity, has made provisions for a 21-cent bulk rate, with some prior conditions. Although in fairness there may have been complaints about the speed and efficiency of delivery, for most utilities that have switched over the cost increase has been fairly substantial.

To return to the example of North York Hydro, the additional mailing cost in 1982, when it finishes converting to the bulk rate, will be in the area of \$80,000 to \$100,000 a year. Even members opposite would have to agree that that is a substantial amount to have to spend in excess of an efficient system already in place. The cost will be passed on to the consumer and, in addition, a number of part-time jobs will be needlessly lost.

I am sure that over the years these jobs have not created child labour, but they have paid a lot of tuition and have helped put a lot of our young people through university. It is a shame to see so many losers and the federal postal corporation the only beneficiary of the new system.

I know the example of Scarborough intimately. They have gone back to the bulk rate of 21 cents; they have decided not to continue the fight with Ottawa. They have been harried and hurried by reminders from the postal corporation that the retention of a private delivery service was illegal. Before switching over to the 21-cent bulk rate the Scarborough Public Utilities Commission was paying eight cents a bill to a small courier operating locally. This company delivered about 100,000 bills a month with a guarantee of 24-hour service.

Now that bills have been sent through the postal corporation, customers of the utility will have to make up the additional \$50,000 to \$60,000 a year that the new service will cost in Scarborough alone. The private distributor will also no longer have the benefit of this large contract.

The Deputy Speaker: Time.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. It is my understanding that the member for Wilson Heights

has approximately seven minutes remaining on his time. It being close to seven minutes before the vote at 5:50, does the member want to use his remaining time?

Mr. Rotenberg: Mr. Speaker, I need about five minutes. If the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Robinson) has about two more minutes, then I will proceed.

The Deputy Speaker: We are too late for that. The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in expressing regret that the member who put forward this resolution does not seem capable of dealing with matters pertaining to provincial jurisdiction.

Since he has raised the matter of the postal service, I certainly want to associate myself with those members in the two opposition parties who have indicated that if we are going to have a nationwide service to deliver the mail in those areas that are not easily served then we must certainly have a postal service that serves everyone.

I happen to live in a rural area. We have a very fine lady who chugs around in a rather late-model car day by day, including Saturday, collects the mail from the mailbox in front of my home and delivers the mail as required. There is no way that one of the fancy, special delivery services the honourable member is thinking about would be any good in those areas.

If we were to take the easy deliverable part of the business away, then surely the cost for the delivery of a letter elsewhere in the province would soon be \$1 a letter. I believe the resolution put forward is the typical selfish approach the member wants to support, a special preferment for those in special positions.

I also want to say that I have heard those criticizing the new leadership, the presidency of the Canada Post Corp. I am not sure about Mr. Warren's politics but I do know that when he was here at Queen's Park he had a high reputation as a very effective and efficient gentleman.

Back in those days, the government of the day under the Honourable John Robarts had a program whereby very special young people, men and women with special abilities, were hired into the government service, given good training and rapid promotion. I thought it was a very good idea. It is something perhaps we should have now.

The fact is that he was here and has shown that he has special abilities. Frankly, I am delighted that he is president of the Canada Post

Corp. I believe that under those circumstances we are going to have an efficient postal service.

Mr. Rotenberg: Mr. Speaker, I have just a few comments. The members of the Liberal Party are obviously so confident they will not even listen to what I want to say. The members of the Liberal Party brought up all sorts of extraneous matters. One thing they claimed, Mr. Speaker, about was that as a member of the government I did not bring up something that had more priority in the government.

I would point out, Mr. Speaker, that I am not a member of the government. The government is the cabinet of this province. I am a government supporter. There is no need for me to criticize the government or the cabinet or the Premier. He is doing a wonderful job handling the problems of this province. There is no need for me as a private member to raise matters in my private members' hour which the government has well in hand.

I would also point out that my motion is not in any way government policy. There are private members on this side. They bring forward their private motions without checking with the Premier or the cabinet. These are private motions and our own opinions. I have been criticized opposite for what is called fed-bashing. I did not once in my presentation—

Mr. Eakins: Pick it up at the post office.

Mr. Speaker: Surely the members should respect the honourable member's right to make himself heard.

Mr. Martel: He is in the wrong House. That is federal legislation.

Mr. Breithaupt: The wrong time in the wrong place.

Mr. Speaker: Do not argue with me. Sit down.

Mr. Rotenberg: I was accused of fed-bashing. I would point out I did not once in my presentation mention any party by name or by implication, and I would point out that the post office is now not—

Mr. Martel: You don't care. You live in Toronto.

Mr. Breithaupt: Michael Warren is yours, not anybody else's.

Mr. Rotenberg: They are at it again, Mr. Speaker. The post office is not now a government department. The post office is now an independent agency and I am criticizing it as such without regard to who might be in power. This is not a partisan issue. The post office is out of politics and that is the way it should be.

The members opposite asked why I did not mention the monopoly of Ontario Hydro or the Liquor Control Board of Ontario. This is a very good question because the burden of my presentation is that every person should be able to deliver his own mail.

Had I not brought in the second part of my motion about courier rates, it might have been more simple. The opposition needs a simple motion to understand it, not a two-part motion.

The burden of my motion is that everybody should be able to deliver their own mail, the same as I cannot set up a competitive hydro system but I can build and run my own generator and supply my own hydro. I cannot go into competition with the liquor control board, but I can make my own wine if I want to and drink my own wine. I do not have to buy from the government.

In reply to the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick), I want a single basic postal rate in this country. I am not asking for any special rights for the little guy or the municipalities or the big business. It is not public versus private. I am simply asking for the right of every person or corporation in this country, big or small, public or private, to be able to do his own thing, to be able to deliver his own mail. That is it. It is for people who want to hire someone else in competition—

Mr. Speaker: The time has expired.

5:50 p.m.

Mr. Rotenberg: Mr. Speaker, just one quotation. May I have 30 seconds? I have been interrupted so often.

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired.

5:56 p.m.

The House divided on Mr. Rotenberg's motion of resolution 13, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes

Andrewes, Ashe, Barlow, Bernier, Bradley, Brandt, Cousens, Cureatz, Dean, Elgie, Eves, Fish, Gillies, Gordon, Gregory, Harris, Havrot, Hodgson, Johnson, J. M., Kennedy, Kerr, Kolyn, Lane, MacQuarrie, McLean, Mitchell;

Norton, Piché, Robinson, Rotenberg, Runciman, Scrivener, Sheppard, Shymko, Stevenson, K. R., Taylor, G. W., Timbrell, Treleaven, Williams, Wiseman.

Nays

Boudria, Breaugh, Breithaupt, Charlton, Conway, Cooke, Copps, Di Santo, Eakins, Edighoffer, Elston, Epp, Haggerty, Johnston, R. F., Kerrio,

Laughren, MacDonald, Mackenzie, Mancini, Martel, McClellan, Miller, G. I.;

Newman, Nixon, Philip, Renwick, Riddell, Roy, Ruprecht, Ruston, Samis, Stokes, Sweeney, Van Horne, Villeneuve, Wells, Wildman, Worton, Wrye.

Ayes 40; nays 39.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I would like to indicate to the House the business for the balance of this week and next.

This evening, we will debate the motion for adoption of the report of the public accounts committee which concerns established programs financing.

Tomorrow morning, we will deal with third readings of Bills 10 and 175, followed by second and third readings of Bills Pr3, Pr5, Pr7, Pr11, Pr12, Pr15 and Pr16; and then in committee of the whole House deal with Bill 6, second readings of Bills 9, 12, 13, 15, 28, 14 and 11, all from the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett).

Also on the legislation list we will have committee of the whole House on Bill 125,

second readings of Bills 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) and second reading of Bill 5. That legislative program will continue tomorrow morning, Monday afternoon, April 26, and the afternoon and evening of Tuesday, April 27.

On Thursday, April 29, we will have private members' business in the afternoon and consideration of the report of the procedural affairs committee on a proposed new committee system in the evening. I would assume, and I will put a motion tomorrow, we will continue with the bill of the member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Charlton) and the next one on the list, which is from the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell).

On Friday, April 30, we will continue any of the legislation on the list I have just read that is not completed.

Mr. Martel: Did the House leader indicate Bill 41 for tomorrow? I did not hear.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Yes, after the third readings and the private bills, then second readings of Bills 36, 41 and 38.

The House recessed at 6:02 p.m.

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Ontario.

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No. 31

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)



Second Session, Thirty-Second Parliament

Thursday, April 22, 1982

Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Thursday, April 22, 1982

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for adoption of the report of the standing committee on public accounts re: decision of the federal government to change existing established programs financing legislation.

Mrs. Scrivener: Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to be the leadoff speaker this evening on the important subject before us. I refer to the report of the standing committee on public accounts which contains the following recommendations:

"In consideration of the decision of the federal government to change the existing established programs financing legislation and the direct effect this will have upon our health, social welfare and post-secondary education programs, your committee recommends:

"That the government of Ontario consider proposing as soon as possible the necessary time for a debate in the Legislature to provide opportunity for a full examination by the members of the provincial Parliament of the impact of the proposed changes,

"And that the government of Ontario request the government of Canada to rescind its decision to act unilaterally on this fiscal arrangement by reopening its negotiation with the provinces, in order to restore a climate of co-operative federalism, to ensure maintenance of existing levels of service in health, social welfare and post-secondary education and to avoid undue increases in fiscal and economic disparities."

The purpose of the debate this evening, Mr. Speaker, is to examine that recommendation and to determine whether there is a need for a general discussion in this Legislature to examine the impact of recent changes by the federal government to the established programs financing arrangements, amendments that make massive reductions in the transfers to the provinces, transfers that are vital to provincial support of health and post-secondary programs.

I wish to declare at the outset that, in my opinion, there is real need for such a debate. In the next few minutes I will undertake to give some of the reasons why such a debate should

be scheduled and why we need to provide the opportunity for as many members of this Legislature as possible to participate in an examination of this complex subject.

While the public accounts committee recommendation does not call for an emergency debate, in my view, the character of the subject for discussion is of such a serious nature, coming as it does at a time when the national economy is in increasingly desperate straits, that we would be quite justified in classifying it as top priority. These significant changes to the system of federal-provincial finance, and the unilateral method by which they are implemented, present a serious challenge to the financial position of provincial governments across Canada and to their ability to provide the quality of services to which Canadians are accustomed.

Unhappily, these changes are very complex and are only vaguely understood, except by a relatively small group of people within the purview of the federal Minister of Finance and his staff, the provincial Treasurers and their staff and a small group of specialists, media people, economists and the like, whose business it is to familiarize themselves with such matters. Yet these are matters that touch the lives of every Canadian one way or another.

Members of the standing committee on public accounts spent considerable time last month examining the whole subject of transfer payments. I believe they are in agreement that it was time well spent in terms of achieving an understanding of the attendant issues.

As the discussion proceeded during the committee's hearings, members were impressed by the magnitude of the reductions in transfers payments and by the ramifications inherent in the shift of such a sizeable portion of the federal deficit to the provinces through such a change.

We appreciated the frank presentations by the Deputy Treasurer and members of his staff, since there has been a considerable amount of confusion and misinformation concerning these amendments. This has made the issue somewhat difficult to follow for those of us whose principal exposure to transfer payments has been through the daily press.

It seems to me that through their examination

and discussion of the impact of these changes, members of this House will provide an important service to their constituents and will improve the general understanding of our countrymen about matters that affect us all. It is for this reason that I am proud to introduce this motion recommending the debate to the standing committee on public accounts.

I would like to commence by discussing briefly a few of the most important aspects of the transfer reductions that came to light during the standing committee's hearings. First and foremost is the impact of the cuts on provincial revenues. Ontario will lose \$1.9 billion over the next five years, \$290 million in this current fiscal year alone. Canada-wide, the five-year cutback exceeds \$5.8 billion, an amount so large it is difficult to imagine.

By any standards, these are substantial amounts. The provinces have declared their support of public-sector restraint, but are most concerned that only they are singled out for federal restraint. According to the figures in the recent federal budget, overall federal spending this year, on a national account basis, is to increase 13.5 per cent but transfers to the provinces are to be held to a mere 2.4 per cent growth rate.

With such modest revenue growth alongside inflation rates of the order seen in Canada today, it is clear that provincial budget makers across the country are facing some very hard fiscal decisions. By passing off part of their deficit problems to the provinces, the federal government can only achieve overall restraint in the public sector if the provinces react by cutting back in the critical area of social services. Such restraint is illusory and ill advised, indeed, unthinkable.

I am strongly of the opinion that if the public actually understood the implications of the established programs financing changes, they would be very upset. People simply do not know—the message has not been carried to them—that from the taxpayer's viewpoint the alternatives are grim.

Reduction in provincial transfer payments means that either we cut back on spending and therefore on standards of service in health and post-secondary education, or we raise provincial taxes sharply; not a happy prospect.

Last August, the 10 provincial Premiers set out the options at their conference in Victoria. They fully appreciated that any reduction in transfers would result in an increase in provincial tax burdens, provincial deficits, and/or a reduction in the level or quality of services.

Given the magnitude of the transfer reductions revealed in the federal budget, it is unavoidable that health and post-secondary education will be affected, along with all other provincial programs.

It is important to note that 10 Premiers issued the joint statement in Victoria. Interestingly, throughout the discussions on fiscal arrangements with the federal government there has been a remarkable unity among the provinces. One example of this common approach was the joint provincial report on EPF presented to the federal-provincial finance ministers' meeting last December in Toronto, which called for a one-year extension of the former funding arrangement. Provincial governments of every major political stripe sat down and jointly developed common positions. Nor was the position altered in any discernible way when Manitoba's government recently changed hands.

From the viewpoint of the provinces, I believe that at this moment we have a truly nonpartisan issue; not one party against another, nor one government against another, but a situation in which the 10 provincial governments have reached a united position because of the untenable financial position into which they have been forced.

8:10 p.m.

Support for this provincial position has been widespread. The report of the federally appointed parliamentary task force on federal-provincial fiscal arrangements concluded that it could not support the transfer reductions sought by the federal government and stated that: "There is no ground to suggest that federal transfers have been getting out of control. In fact, they grew at a slower rate in the 1970s than they did in the 1960s."

The Economic Council of Canada also undertook a detailed study entitled, *Financing Confederation: Today and Tomorrow*, and arrived at a similar conclusion, that federal-provincial transfers have not been a cause of the federal deficit as claimed by finance minister, Allan J. MacEachen, since transfers to the provinces have grown more slowly than other government outlays. The council stressed in its report that it is improper to shift the burden of expenditure cuts to provincial budgets, particularly since federal revenues are expected to grow sharply due to the energy pricing agreements.

The argument in support of the finance minister's claim of "fiscal imbalance" and the need for transfer payment reductions is certainly very weak. The unilateral decision by the

finance minister to cut \$5.8 billion from the EPF arrangement with the provinces is particularly unfortunate given the hopes that all governments shared in 1977 when the agreement was adopted. That new agreement was hailed by all parties at that time as a major step forward in federal-provincial relations.

The responsibilities of the two levels of government were clarified and disentangled, replacing the three previous rigid cost-sharing agreements for hospital insurance, medicare and post-secondary education. These programs had grown into place gradually since 1959 because the federal government wished to encourage minimum national standards in those rapidly growing areas of provincial spending responsibility under the Constitution.

However, by the first half of the 1970s, the federal government had become increasingly alarmed at cost escalation in these programs, slapping an annual ceiling on federal contributions to post-secondary education and subsequently to medicare. These arbitrary limits had a crude and uneven impact since most provinces were constrained by the unexpected inflation of costs in the mid-1970s.

As the system started to break down, criticisms were also being voiced by provincial governments and those they served. The provinces were not free to design the most cost effective range of services because of the narrow definitions of what Ottawa would help finance, particularly under the hospital insurance program where the cost of nursing home care and other low cost alternatives to hospitals were not cost shared.

The new deal, commenced in 1977 and continued until a few weeks ago, was the successful product of genuine federal-provincial negotiations. For its part, the federal government gained control and predictability over the size of its contributions and succeeded in tying transfer outlays to the growth of the economy. It considered this to be an eminently satisfactory move. For their part, the provinces gained the flexibility through block funding, to determine their own spending priorities and to experiment in more efficient ways of providing services.

It was thoroughly understood that this arrangement passed the burden of fiscal risk to the provinces, which now became fully responsible for meeting growing cost pressures in health and education.

Through that new financing agreement arrangement, the federal government acknowledged that it was serious about containing

costs within the system. As Prime Minister Trudeau in 1976 said: "The established programs financing proposal also suits the current and future imperative, namely, fiscal restraint, in that provinces will have a greater incentive to implement what are admittedly difficult measures designed to restrain spending in those fields to reasonable levels."

One of the basic principles of that 1977 financing arrangement was the long-term certainty it promised for federal contributions. It was almost like a guarantee. This dependability of payments was to provide the provinces with the opportunity to undertake proper expenditure planning, secure in the knowledge that federal grants would not be capped or withdrawn.

In the words of Prime Minister Trudeau, the EPF proposal would remove "a number of sources of federal-provincial friction" and "will constitute an important step forward in federal-provincial co-operation to the advantage of the people of Canada."

It is clear that the unilateral amendments passed by the federal Parliament last month are regressive and violate this principle of long-term certainty. In effect, they are a breach of the trust and confidence engendered by that 1977 agreement. How blatantly defensive it is that the amendments removing \$5.8 billion from provincial transfer payments have been accompanied by claims by the federal government that in some way their support for post-secondary education and health is not reduced. However, the protestations one hears from the colleges and universities across Canada and from groups concerned with health care indicate that they do not believe this is true. They realize that the planned revenue reductions will have to be offset by the provinces.

The reality is that the federal government has deleted an integral part of the 1977 agreement in removing the revenue guarantee compensation, a quid pro quo that was essential to the satisfactory conclusion of those earlier talks five years ago. To claim that the rump of the EPF arrangement maintains an undiminished federal support is to strain the credibility of this House.

In the context of how the block funding arrangement for health and post-secondary education was intended to operate I offer these observations.

The federal government has repeatedly attempted to justify the transfer reduction by claiming that it has been contributing an inordinately high level of support in relation to

provincial spending on health and post-secondary education, as evidenced by a high and sometimes rising federal share of these costs. Explanatory statements have appeared in the press, although without any consistency, which have varied with each Ottawa spokesman. In the main, these arguments have been easily refuted, some to an embarrassing degree. Officials in the Department of Finance, for instance, felt obliged to correct facts and figures used by the Prime Minister during a recent press conference.

Yet these arguments are contrary to the principles of a block funding arrangement. Prime Minister Trudeau underlined this in a 1976 speech. He said, "Provinces would agree to spend these federal EPF funds in the fields in question . . . but would not have to make matching expenditures of any kind from their own sources."

Attempts to isolate the federal share of spending within the various programs financed by EPF are necessarily very arbitrary. Occasionally the federal share has been exaggerated by including only a narrow definition of provincial spending—for instance, by restricting health expenditures to those shareable under the old cost-sharing agreements. Although the provinces were reluctant to get into a complex statistical battle with the federal government they were forced to do so in the face of constant criticism of their spending policies.

The result of an analysis of provincial spending was released by the Premiers' conference last August in Victoria and endorsed by all 10 provincial governments. That report showed clearly that the federal shares have never reached 50 per cent and are currently declining. Although the federal share did rise initially, this was because of provincial success in bringing their spending under control, an objective EPF was designed to achieve. That the federal government contributed only 46.6 per cent of spending on health and post-secondary education in Ontario in 1981-82 is evidence that the established programs financing arrangement has until now been operating as it was intended.

Our debate this evening comes at a time when provinces are just beginning to appreciate how seriously the transfer reductions will affect provincial finances. Right across the country the provincial economies are lagging, with even oil-rich Alberta introducing a deficit budget. Yet the federal financial position seems to be entrenched in spite of the colossal criticism it has aroused. How ironic that Saturday's Constitutional celebrations should be held against

such a national background of financial distress and mistrust.

8:20 p.m.

It is possible some members of this Legislature will indulge in the cliché accusation of fed-bashing. I hope they will not, but still they may do so. Fed-bashing can have a therapeutic effect sometimes, even for members of the provincial Liberal Party, but I would submit it is entirely wrong to suggest it tonight.

To sum up: The body of opinion concerning the federal shift in policy on transfer payments has resulted in a consensus which can only be described as astounding since it is not our usual Canadian style. Such a body of opinion cannot be shallowly labelled fed-bashing. Yes, there is a solid phalanx composed of all 10 provincial Treasurers who have met, examined, decried and condemned the federal changes. Were it not for the gravity of the situation, I believe we would be justified in calling it a dirty trick played by the federal Minister of Finance upon his colleagues, the provincial Treasurers.

It is much more than that. It is a change which has been grossly misrepresented in terms of its justification, a change which defies the orderliness, good housekeeping, strong fiscal leadership and goodwill we so desperately need at the senior level of government. As I have noted, the Treasurers have been supported in their evaluation by the Economic Council of Canada, by the parliamentary task force on federal-provincial fiscal arrangements and other organizations and individuals who all concur that the total effect will be disastrous. The universities, for instance, have no difficulty understanding what impact the reduction in transfer payments will have upon them.

Earlier this week, Mr. William D. Mulholland, chairman and chief executive officer of the Bank of Montreal, warned in a strongly worded address that prompt measures would have to be taken to divert the Canadian economy from its downward path. He indicated present federal fiscal policy is inappropriate for the times, that Canadians are now in "dangerous economic waters with the financial base of our economy seriously eroded," and that "current policy options now being debated are not adequate."

Since the changes to the established programs financing arrangement are directly related to the federal fiscal policy established in that oh-so-faulty budget last November, Mr. Mulholland's outspoken comments are a timely reflection of the gravity of the problem which

confronts us all in our consideration of this subject.

By using transfer payments as a means of reducing that federal budget, the government of Canada is really ducking the issue, placing the onus for spending restraint on the backs of the provinces. The \$5.8 billion reduction in transfer payments is a direct loss, not to the Premier (Mr. Davis), not to the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) nor to me as a politician; no, it is a direct loss to the people of Ontario who will have to pay one way or another to compensate for that loss.

I appeal to all members of this Legislature to set aside their partisan views and to give consideration as Canadians to the impact which reduction of transfer payments is going to have upon our province and our country. The achievements of 1977 in developing a harmonious and efficient method of funding our nationwide system of health care and higher education ought not to be squandered without a full public debate of the consequences in this House.

I put it to all honourable members that this is a matter which transcends personal or party positions and which requires from us all our best effort, our most inventive thinking and our most constructive proposals.

We are not talking tonight about philosophical differences or arguments between federal and provincial politicians. We are talking about the ordinary men, women and children of Ontario and about something that will affect them in a very personal way, placing in jeopardy our standards of post-secondary education and health care in this province.

For this reason, a unanimous decision from the Legislature of Ontario—I will repeat that: for this reason, a unanimous decision from the Legislature of Ontario to the government of Canada should not fail to impress upon the Minister of Finance how seriously we, as legislators, view this matter and its effects upon our people. I would submit that each and every one of us in this House has an obligation to join in a united stand on behalf of the people we have the privilege and duty to represent.

Mr. Roy: Mr. Speaker, if there was any doubt at all that this was going to be an evening of fed-bashing, there was none the minute the member for St. David (Mrs. Scrivener) got up. It was obviously the Tory strategy to send out their best hatchetperson to do some fed-bashing this evening. Given the vehemence she put into her speech, or whoever wrote the speech for her, it is going to be very difficult to get some sort of consensus in this assembly after the

member for St. David has given us this diatribe against the federal government.

The thing I find surprising about this whole process is that if the Tories are so concerned about what is happening on federal transfer payments, one would think they would be here this evening. Where are all those Tories? Where is the cabinet? Where is the concern about transfer payments? Is the Treasurer the only member of cabinet who is concerned about federal-provincial transfer payments? Where are all the Tories? Now the exuberant Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow) has just walked in as further support. All the Tory benches, except for a very few, are empty for such an important debate.

There is some irony and some hypocrisy on the part of the Tories here this evening because they are bitching, they are fed-bashing, they are concerned about what the federal government is doing to them; but look at what they are doing to the municipalities. This double standard, according to the member for St. David, is just not fair. They are saying, "Do not do to us, feds, what we have just done to the municipalities." It is true irony that she was talking about some sort of sacred agreement on the part of the province and the federal government. What about the Edmonton commitment? What has happened to that commitment?

The other irony of this process is the fact that we have had a succession of Treasurers, starting with Darcy McKeough and then Mr. White, and now our friend—no, McKeough, White, McKeough again and now the present Treasurer. Have I got them straightened out now?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Yes.

Mr. Roy: I have them straightened out. We have had a succession of Treasurers who kept saying to the feds: "Cut your deficit. Do like us. Cut your deficit down. Cut your spending." At the moment the federal government is doing exactly that on transfer payments and now the Tories are bitching. Now they are saying it is not fair. They are saying: "Do not cut your deficit on our back. We can cut it on the backs of municipalities but do not do that to us." What irony, what hypocrisy on the part of the people on the other side of the House.

I do not intend to talk very long. I just want to point out these ironies. The other point of interest is that we have heard a succession of provincial governments say to the federal government: "Stay out of our jurisdiction. Stay out of health. Stay out of education."

Interjections.

Mr. Roy: The money I earn in Ottawa is not from the public trough as is that of most of the members across the way. Most of those backbenchers' hands should shake when they pick up their pay cheques. They get big, fat cheques for sitting on their behinds and occasionally yelling like a bunch of trained seals. That is all they do.

8:30 p.m.

There has been a succession of times when the provinces have implored the federal government to stay out of the jurisdiction of the provinces, out of the fields of education and health, out of a variety of them, even transportation and communications. The federal government said: "Yes, okay we will stay out of it. We will have to start cutting down the payments."

Then the provinces say it is not fair. They say basically, "Give us the money involved in our jurisdiction, but do not get involved in any decision-making." They say, "Give us the funds to fund these programs, but do not take any of the credit."

How often have we seen programs which were funded to the tune of 50 per cent and up to 90 per cent by the federal government, for which the provinces were getting all the credit?

Mr. Havrot: Whose money was it in the beginning? Where did the feds get the money from?

Mr. Roy: Time after time, any time there is a problem, the province always blames the feds.

After a while, the federal government said: "Look, we are tired of carrying the majority of the load for these programs. It is time the provinces accepted their responsibilities and you are not prepared to toe the line." It is hypocrisy of the highest kind when members complain about the process being done to them when it is exactly what the government has been doing to the municipalities.

In closing, I am not here to defend the federal programs. All I am here to say is, before they start throwing rocks they should get out of their own glass houses. The government should not start blaming the federal government for cutting back on the payments when it is not a cutback on the payments but a cutback on the increase. It is a cutback on the increase and not on the overall funding.

In closing, having heard the member for St. David, it is very difficult for us to have sympathy with the government which on a succession of occasions has said to the feds: "Cut your deficit. Stop spending. Stop taxing the Canadian peo-

ple." When they do accept the province's advice on that, the end result is there is less money. There is less money for the taxpayers and there is less money for the provinces.

They are not prepared to accept it. They are not prepared to shoulder the responsibility. I for one will not join in this hypocrisy on the part of the Tories this evening.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, I understand there is an announcement for the member for Ottawa East. There is a limousine waiting to take the member to the airport. It is at the back door.

Mr. Roy: That is okay. You didn't even get through law school, you dummy.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): Order. I would tell the member for Ottawa East, who was given a fair reception by the other honourable members, that such a remark is out of order, if I heard you correctly.

Mr. Kerrio: What about him? That jackass doesn't have to make remarks like that.

The Acting Speaker: The member for Niagara Falls will withdraw that remark.

Mr. Kerrio: I withdraw the remark in calling that man a jackass. I do not think he is a jackass.

The Acting Speaker: The other member also made allegations about the member for Etobicoke which I would like to have withdrawn.

Mr. Roy: I apologize for having called him a dummy. He is only mentally deficient.

The Acting Speaker: I find the honourable member's effect on the House does not raise the debate.

Mr. Kerrio: He shouldn't have stood up and started making a speech like he did.

Mr. Cooke: Why don't you shut up?

The Acting Speaker: The member for Etobicoke has the floor.

Mr. Philip: I am in agreement that a debate such as we are having tonight, which the member for St. David has started, is an important one that should be debated by this Legislature. I recognize the value of this debate though, unfortunately, the bill that has done so much damage to the people of Ontario and to other people across Canada, namely Bill C-97, has already been arbitrarily passed by the federal government.

Even though I recognize that, and even though I recognize the value of saying to the federal government in no uncertain terms that we, as other provinces, deplore the arbitrary, unilateral way in which it has cheated the

provinces, I still must question the way in which the standing committee on public accounts was used by certain members of this House.

As a member of the public accounts committee, I recognize the role of that committee is to do certain things and if those things are not done the taxpayers of this province suffer an immediate result. They are fairly clearly spelled out in *Improving Accountability: Canadian Public Accounts Committees and Legislative Auditors*, by John J. Kelly and Hugh R. Hanson.

All three parties approved this report and endorsed most of the recommendations and principles in it. It clearly outlines the nonpartisan responsibilities and the manner in which a public accounts committee must operate.

On page 13 it states that "written statement of role and responsibilities comprise a general statement of purpose and a list of issues that the committee is to examine, assess and report to the legislature." It outlines some of the things the committee should be doing. It talks about "the reliability and appropriateness of information in the public accounts to provide a full and fair accounting of the operations and financial transactions; the collection of, and proper accounting for, all taxes and revenues due; the maintenance of expenditures within the limits and for the purposes authorized by the Legislature; the adequacy of safeguards to protect assets from loss, waste and misappropriation;" and so forth.

If we go through that list, we see that our role is to examine the finances of this province and to find ways in which we can run this province more efficiently, to see whether the civil service and the public employees are carrying out the objectives of the government, whether we agree or disagree with those objectives.

When I see a member of one party introducing a motion that presents only one side of an issue and is going to be used as a forum for an attack on one government, in this case the federal government, I really question the use of the committee. It is even worse when I see a key public employee, a deputy minister, being used in what can only be described as a highly partisan political manner. That person lost credibility in the eyes of members of that committee on that day, whether we agree with what he said or not.

It is the role of politicians to argue the political arguments, to set objectives and to talk about whether or not those are being carried out. It is the role of public employees to provide the information on which those decisions are

made. This government and we in the NDP can agree the federal government abandoned the co-operation and negotiations which we have relied on over the years.

Surely a key part of those negotiations is the senior civil servants who must co-operate and who must work in as nonpartisan a manner as possible with one another. The actions of that particular public employee from Ontario not only hurt his credibility with members on this side of the House, but will also have hurt the co-operation and integrity he must have to co-operate with his federal counterparts.

Having said that, I can only say I was disturbed because, when I am in the public accounts committee, I find my job is not to attack the public service but rather to ask for information. Its role is not to make policy statements but to provide information.

If one reads the Hansard of those days, we suddenly could not tell whether Mr. Campbell was the minister or not. How can we have confidence in asking for information from someone who has just debated in a highly partisan manner, as though he were another elected representative? I say to the members that if he wants to do that kind of thing he should run for office and not occupy a highly paid public service post.

8:40 p.m.

None the less, the cutbacks by the federal government are extremely serious. I find it interesting that if one looks at the cutbacks in health care and education, specifically in post-secondary education, we are already experiencing the sad results of those federal government cutbacks. The federal government will maintain that this is all the fault of the provincial governments, yet it seems to give different figures at different times.

For example, at the present time the figure of 55 per cent of the funding for post-secondary schools in Ontario is given by federal government spokespersons. It was interesting that Mr. Trudeau's right-hand man, a man who unsuccessfully tried to become a member of Parliament but failed abysmally in Spadina, was quoting 87 per cent. A few months later it dropped from 87 per cent to 55 per cent.

One must ask if the federal government is so incompetent that it cannot tell the difference between 55 per cent and 87 per cent? Are they so incapable or do we have people, in that case a federal civil servant with a high post in the federal government, acting in a highly partisan manner when he becomes a politician and

misconstruing or distorting the figures? The people of Etobicoke have suffered as a direct result, as have people across the province.

The man in question had hoped to become a minister. His hopes have been dashed and I hope that in two years, since he has been nominated again, the same thing will happen when Dan Heap shows him exactly what it is to understand a community and to be sensitive to its needs.

The effects of the cuts by both the federal government and the provincial government are already felt in post-secondary education in Ontario. Next fall the fees will be raised by at least 12 per cent. When the cuts now processed by the federal government go into effect the fees will undoubtedly be raised for 1983.

There is a general cut in accessibility. Very recently in a speech on the supplementary estimates, I outlined for the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) exactly how difficult things were at Humber College. I showed that year after year the number of people who are not able to access the system is going up. I showed that in the case of Humber College we have the second lowest space per student of any college in the province.

I mentioned how, as President Wragg, who has served our community extremely well, has said time and time again, the noose was getting tighter and tighter. Basically, the federal government cutbacks have a compounding effect because in this province the reactionary actions of a reactionary federal government are being compounded by an even more reactionary government at Queen's Park. That makes things twice as bad.

During the past year 50,000 student applications were rejected by the post-secondary education system in Ontario because places were not available in this province. In fact, only 45 per cent of applicants for 1980 and 1981 were accepted. There simply is not enough room to educate the students that we have, even though the ratio of university educated people to the population is lower than that of the United States and certain other countries.

In the field of health, the well-known Toronto Western Hospital has closed its obstetrics department. This was not done cheerfully, but none the less we are faced with that. Similarly in Etobicoke we are faced with tremendous problems of people needing psychiatric help who are literally out on the street without enough facilities in our borough to handle their needs. I have

documented this over and over again in questions to the Minister of Health.

In dealing very directly with this matter, we should look at the way it has developed, at the history of the financial arrangements between the federal and provincial governments, and that will give us some insight into the matter. The most outlandish lie—and we have heard such statements from the federal government—is that it is somehow blaming its deficit on its grants to the provinces.

The task force on this in the House of Commons stated that federal grants to provinces and municipalities, expressed as a percentage of total federal spending, have been fairly constant since 1970. The federal argument that somehow we in the provinces are responsible for the increasing federal deficit is a lot of nonsense. It just does not hold, if we examine the figures since 1970.

There is, therefore, as the task force pointed out, no ground for suggesting that the federal transfers have been getting out of hand. In fact, they grew at a slower rate in the 1970s than they did in the 1960s. So the arguments the federal government may have used for this obnoxious bill that was passed on April 5, Bill C-97, just have no grounds whatsoever.

Let us take a look at the position our party, the New Democratic Party, took in the House of Commons in examining Bill C-97. If we can understand the nature of the bill, then I think we can understand what our problem is.

First of all, with a majority government, unfortunately the public accounts committee has made a certain number of decisions that are not exactly nonpartisan in nature. In spite of the recommendations of our party members to hear both sides of the question, to call forward some key civil servants or public employees from the federal government to present their side and answer questions—and I am sure they would do it in a less partisan manner than the political hack we had in front of us—the public accounts committee decided to hear only one side, namely, the Conservative Party side presented by a deputy minister hiding behind his so-called nonpartisan civil service status.

We in this party had asked for both sides. Because it is such a complicated bill, having taken the wrong route, having taken the route of prostituting the public accounts committee for what can only be called a highly partisan, highly political act and measure, at least we could have tried to even it up by hearing both sides. But we did not do that; we refused to accept the

position of the NDP in that committee, which was to invite a presentation from the federal government to deal with the arguments.

So we are faced with trying to understand what exactly has gone on over the years between the two levels of government. Our colleagues in Ottawa pointed out that we opposed the changes to the EPF because the removal of the revenue guarantee meant less federal support for medicare and post-secondary education programs. This gave provinces like Ontario the excuse for further cutbacks, and that is what is happening.

Second, our federal caucus opposed the spirit in which the federal government undertook these changes. The federal government abandoned the co-operative negotiations approach to federalism and replaced it with unilateral action.

8:50 p.m.

Finally, the federal caucus was opposed to the mixing of the established programs financing issue, a program designed to finance health care and post-secondary education, with changes in the equalization formula, a program designed to redistribute wealth from the well-off to the less-well-off regions of the country. The two principles, our colleagues in the New Democratic Party in the House of Commons pointed out, should be kept distinct.

If we look at the two major changes that result from Bill C-97 we see that the first place the federal government will substantially reduce the amount of money transferred to the provinces is for those three areas I have just indicated. Second, the equalization formula will be changed so that it is computed on a formula based on the per capita average of five provinces, and the revenue source base will be expanded to include sources previously excluded.

If we look at the background of how this happened we will understand the evolution since the 1970s. The Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Established Programs Financing Act, passed on March 31, 1977, has 10 parts, each dealing with an aspect of the overall fiscal arrangements between the federal government and the provinces. The established programs financing and equalization are two of the 10 parts of this act. This bill addressed these two parts, and they are the ones that are of most concern now since it passed on April 5.

I am told it is now 8:55 p.m., and I have a number of colleagues who want to speak. I have some 15 or 20 pages more in which to outline the background, but rather than do this I would be happy to share it with my colleagues over a cup

of coffee if they would like to hear it. I certainly would not want anyone to miss our Health critic's comments on this important issue.

Instead, let me summarize. We in this province, like those in all the other provinces, are 100 per cent opposed to the removal of the revenue guarantee moneys, which we feel indicates the abdication of federal responsibility to medicare and to post-secondary education programs.

We are opposed to the unilateral imposition of the new equalization formula by which the government thumbs its nose at the co-operative federalism that has been developed over the last couple of decades. We resent the fact that this bill was rammed through the House of Commons in a very short time. We object strongly to the mixing of changes in the EPF funding with the changes in the equalization formula.

At the same time, we strongly oppose the way in which the reactionary government on that side of the House is using the federal government's cutbacks to the provinces as an excuse for further cutbacks to do exactly the kinds of things Joe Clark would have done to us if he were in power, but which they now are able to compound provincially.

I think our committee has been misused for partisan political purposes. I do not disagree with some of the comments that the members for the Conservative Party have made concerning the way in which the federal government has acted; but, as the member for Ottawa East (Mr. Roy) has stated, they are not without sin, for what the federal government has done to us they have done, under Darcy McKeough and ministers after him, to the municipalities.

To somehow take into the nonpartisan forum of the public accounts committee this kind of fed-bashing rather than introduce it into the Legislature, where we can act in a partisan way and where we are expected to do so, was a misuse of that committee; and I find the manner in which they approached it, considering their track record in the treatment of municipalities and their track record in piggy-backing on what the feds are doing provincially, to be quite hypocritical.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I had planned to speak last tonight. But I understand there is no time agreement and I feel I should be on the record because I am one of those fortunate people who has had the opportunity to be involved from 1973 to the present in the Ottawa negotiations that led to the Established Pro-

grams Financing Act and which, to some degree this year, took it apart.

I think we should all understand the history of the act. This history involves an awareness that in a country as disparate as Canada there is great need to assure that each province has some degree of equality in the level of service in certain basic areas like health and post-secondary education despite their own fiscal incapacity to provide them.

It was Sir John A. Macdonald who once said that Canada is a triumph of politics over geography. One of the reasons it was such a triumph for politics was that we managed to find a glue strong enough to hold us together. That glue was the transfer of money from well-to-do to less-well-to-do regions.

We did it by a number of techniques. In recent years equalization payments have been extensively used, along with established programs financing. For many years cost-shared programs have been used. The realization dawned at the federal level that cost-shared programs did not bring equality but encouraged high spending. Rapid spending growth occurred in the years 1968 to 1972 or 1973 on hospital spending and doctors' services because they were cost shared. Little was done in such less expensive areas as nursing homes, sharing of ambulances and other such techniques.

So we have one of those rare and I think typically Canadian agreements, reached in December 1976 at a first ministers' meeting, following four or five years of frustrating but necessary trade-off negotiations, leading to replacement of cost-shared programs in health and post-secondary by formula financing.

We could go back into the records and look at the words of the Honourable Marc Lalonde and the Honourable Pierre Elliot Trudeau. They were saying, "Look, it is in the taxpayers' interests, in the provinces' interests, to get away from programs that cause spending, and to move to programs that improve management." At that point we wiped out any arbitrary funding for health or post-secondary education and put all the money in one pot, something people tend to forget.

All the attempts to say what we are spending on post-secondary education or what on health must fail. The quotations from those leaders showed that they were throwing responsibility for management, and the savings earned through management, back into the provinces' hands.

It was one of those rare success stories. The last of the compromises at the 11th hour was the

rolling of a revenue guarantee, a vestige of the days prior to the Benson white paper on taxation which reformed the tax base, into the established programs financing formula.

The provinces, led by Ontario and Quebec, simply wanted tax room. The federal government insisted on a cash component because it thought tax room would give us too great growth and revenues. Roughly half the money was to be in cash, escalated annually by a moving average of the consumer price index weighted on a three-year basis, complex but there.

We were all wrong. If the provinces had had their way, growth in funding would not have been so great. The cash component grew much faster than the feds thought it would and the tax base did not grow so quickly. It still ended up being very fair; and the gross transfer stayed right on the projected targets, something a lot of people tend to forget. It did not grow as fast as overall federal spending; it was not causing the deficits at the federal level. It did improve management; it did all the things it should have done. Yet within two years we found the federal government trying to cap the growth, and within four or five years unilaterally trying to rescind the arrangements. Now, in the fifth year, they have done so.

9 p.m.

I say with some degree of sadness that they have destroyed something we thought was very important. You do not often find Socialist provinces, Conservative provinces, Social Credit provinces—there are no Liberal provinces—agreeing on one thing; but unanimously over the last year and a half the provinces have said, "Do not change that formula without the same kind of discussion we had when we created it."

I led the group. I was the provinces' spokesman, and I have to say that I echo the words in the joint provincial statement on February 4, 1982, when we said: "The provinces have proposed a temporary one-year extension of the current fiscal arrangements. We believe the extension is absolutely essential because of the flaws in the federal proposals. More time is required to redress those flaws and examine some of the options on the table."

Therefore, in proposing a one-year extension to the current system we suggested an overall cap of 12 per cent on federal payments of equalization and EPF combined, because that is what Mr. Trudeau said he could afford. We simply said we would live with the amount he said he could afford, and asked to let us have

time to discuss it. That was not done, and as a result we may see some of the most dangerous undoing of a very effective rule that has ever occurred in Canada.

We finance ministers were called to Ottawa on September 30, 1981, to meet Mr. MacEachen. At that meeting he said: "I would like your advice. I will be bringing a budget forward shortly." We said, "Can we discuss established programs financing?" He said, "There is no need to discuss it; it is not in the budget."

We said, "How can you prepare a budget without doing something with the established programs financing?" He replied: "Don't worry. I have already taken the money out." We asked: "What is there, then, to discuss? What are we here for? What kind of nonsense are we getting?"

One can go to any province. The honourable member can ask his friend Tchorzewski in Saskatchewan; he will verify what I am saying. Not one inch of change occurred in meeting after meeting following the budget.

Mr. Worton: Seems like Queen's Park.

Hon. F. S. Miller: That is not like Queen's Park, and you know it.

Interjections are coming from the other side about the municipalities. The interesting thing about municipal financing is that it is now a smaller percentage of family income than it was 10 years ago. In fact, the increase in tax rates at the municipal level has been below inflation in almost every year of the past decade. That is because the provinces in general have treated the municipalities fairly. I just point that out. It is very easy to say we did not, but we did.

I have had \$290 million taken directly off Ontario's funding this year. It is not an easy year to make it up. It did not allow me to cut one dollar off my spending. I would not have minded if the cut in federal spending had permitted cuts in total spending at the provincial level. But all they did was transfer their problems to us. So I think it is quite safe for the municipalities to stand up and say unanimously, as we still do, that there is a great need for a very useful formula to be carried on in the interests of quality health care, quality post-secondary education and good management.

The Deputy Speaker: Being newly arrived in the chair, I presume that we are going in normal rotation, so I will recognize the member for Haldimand-Norfolk.

Mr. G. I. Miller: Mr. Speaker, it is with some pleasure that I rise to speak in the debate

tonight. I had the opportunity to sit on the public accounts committee in place of the member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Sargent). I think it is only fitting that we should discuss financing, as the Treasurer has indicated tonight, and the resolution that has been put forward.

What was disconcerting to me as I listened in committee was to hear the Deputy Treasurer make a very political approach on behalf of the province, placing the total blame on the federal government. It was very unfair, as the member for St. David pointed out one more time as she made her presentation tonight.

We are in very difficult financial times, and the taxpayers and the people back in my riding tell me it is getting more difficult as the days go by to pay their taxes. As has been pointed out by my colleague the member for Ottawa East, the provincial government is just passing the buck along to the lower level of government; but it has to stop some place. An example is that education costs at the separate school board and our Norfolk Board of Education are rising by 25 per cent. The taxpayers are beginning to make rumblings about organizing to withhold taxes.

There are many companies today that are laying off. They are saying to their employees: "If you want a job, you take a 10 per cent cut and there will be a job there tomorrow." I have had heard that from several of the people in my riding.

The government has to take a fair look at overall financing and realize the position we have been forced into. No longer can we take 12.5, 15 and 25 per cent increases; we have to be realistic. We also have to co-operate. I am a strong federalist myself; I think we need a strong federal government and a strong provincial government. But we have to be realistic and, when the federal government says we have to accept the cut, we have to be responsible.

If we take it from the top level to this level and on to the lower level, and show some leadership in doing so, I am satisfied the people will understand, because everybody needs a job, that is the key to it. If we do not provide that, we are all in serious trouble.

Mr. Philip: If you are ever wondering where the real Conservative Party is, just listen.

Mr. G. I. Miller: Well, I think we have to respond to the elected people; if we do not—

Mr. Philip: The Social Credit Party all over again.

Mr. G. I. Miller: There are many other areas I would like to comment on, but I think the basic point is that we cannot be bashing the federal government; we have to work along with them. We cannot be directing the funding down to the local level. We have to take a very close look at it and work together to make the system work.

With those few remarks, I will leave it to the members of this Legislature.

The Deputy Speaker: We appreciate those few remarks.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I guess the Treasurer is still with us, although he is invisible. I want to make a few comments, not so much about what the federal government has done with established programs financing over the course of the last little while but what the province of Ontario has done with EPF since it was inaugurated in 1975-76.

I do not accept all the accusations that Mme Bégin has made with respect to the misappropriation or misallocation of EPF dollars, particularly in the area of health and post-secondary education. I am sure members who have been following this squabble between the province and the feds are aware of the history of name-calling and recrimination back and forth, with Mme Bégin saying that the provinces, and Ontario in particular, could not be trusted with no-strings funding, block funding à la EPF, because they simply siphoned the money off into roads and sewers instead of spending it on schools and hospitals.

9:10 p.m.

I think there was an exaggeration in Mme Bégin's critique. How the federal government arrives at the conclusion that the solution to this dilemma is to brutally slash transfer payments from the federal level to the provincial level is beyond me. It is simply an exercise in self-serving cost-cutting that has no regard for the consequences.

Still, I do not think we should pretend that Ontario's record in using the EPF dollars is anything to brag about. As a matter of fact, I think it is very clear that Ontario has used the EPF money to enhance its own political position and to maintain a lower level of provincial taxation than it otherwise would have had to do.

In other words, Ontario has used the enhanced federal contributions to be able to keep its own provincial rates of taxation relatively low.

I have a copy of a document that was prepared by the federal social development ministry, analysing federal support for both

post-secondary education and health under the EPF arrangements between the years 1975-76 and 1979-80.

Let me refer first to the analysis of the post-secondary education expenditures and the comparison of expenditures on a per capita basis federally and provincially. I quote from the report:

"During the cost-sharing period"—again, we are talking from 1975-76 to 1979-80—"the federal government paid somewhat under half of the operating expenditures for post-secondary education in Ontario. Since the introduction of EPF, the federal share has risen impressively by over 15 percentage points, while the provincial share has correspondingly fallen and the share picked up by students and other sources has remained stable at around 19 per cent. In fact, the provincial share has dropped so far that it is now barely larger than the other share."

In other words, the province has used EPF to reduce its share of post-secondary education expenditures on a per capita basis, and it has allowed the federal increase, measured on a constant per capita basis, to cushion the burden so that the government is able to run around and say: "Are we not clever? We have managed to control our costs, maintain our services and keep your taxes down all at the same time. Are we not clever fellows?"

The reason they have been able to do that is they have simply substituted federal money for provincial money and used that to hold the line.

The authors of this section of the report conclude: "By making real decreases in operating expenditures at a time when real federal contributions per capita were increasing, Ontario was able to make large real decreases in its own contribution to post-secondary education. Thus, measured on a per capita basis in constant 1971 dollars, while the federal government was increasing its real transfers by 25.64 per cent over this period, the province was reducing its per capita contributions by 48.19 per cent."

It is easy to boast about a restraint program when they are substituting federal tax transfers for provincial dollars.

Mr. Philip: There is no minister to answer that. This is so important, but there is not one minister in the House.

Mr. McClellan: This kind of sleight of hand is now producing its own reward with an equally nasty response from the federal government. When our Treasurer raises his hands and says, "My gosh, isn't it awful what they are doing to us?" it is simply the pot calling the kettle black.

I have the Treasurer's letter of February 25, 1982, to Mr. MacEachen. The most revealing sentence in this long, six-page letter is on page 2, at the bottom. It says, "Allan, as I said to you on an earlier occasion, how can I play when you are concealing half the deck?" In other words, the Treasurer concedes he is playing with only half a deck.

We have the rest of the report, dealing with health expenditures. I simply want to put this on the record too. This is an analysis of provincial health care expenditures measured on a per capita basis in constant 1971 dollars, compared with federal per capita expenditures through the EPF program. This is between the years 1975-76 and 1979-80.

I am using the most generous set of figures to measure provincial health expenditures. I am using the figures that come from the Hall commission of 1980, which are described as "total operating and capital costs incurred by the province in performing its health function as defined in the loosest possible terms, as accepted by the Hall commission and as approved by the province of Ontario." So I take the most generous set of provincial expenditure figures in this analysis.

What do we come up with? We come up with exactly the same thing. The conclusion of the analysis, measuring per capita expenditures from the federal government through EPF and from the provincial government through both general revenue and premiums, is as follows:

"None of the increased federal funding under established programs financing has been passed on to residents of Ontario in the form of increased provincial health expenditures." As a matter of fact, the per capita expenditure data deserve to be quickly read into the record: "Between 1975 and 1980, federal per capita expenditures went up 27 per cent. During the same period, 1975 to 1980, provincial per capita expenditures measured in constant dollars decreased 29.3 per cent. In dollar terms, they decreased \$32.46 per person."

That is quite a saving. That is quite a little restraint program. The Treasurer has been able to pay for his restraint program, his constraint program, his hold-the-line program, whatever one wants to call it—

Mr. Nixon: No new taxes in the election year.

Mr. McClellan: Precisely; as the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk says, "No new taxes in the election year." The Treasurer is able to do that by using the cushion of federal transfer payments. It is surely no surprise that during the

same period of time the Treasurer has increased the per capita expenditure on health, using the regressive premium tax, from \$47 per person in 1975 to \$60 per person in 1980, for an increase of 27 per cent.

In a nutshell, during this five-year period the federal government increased its per capita expenditures 27 per cent and, with characteristic cheapness, Ontario managed to increase its per capita expenditure only 3.6 per cent, and all that increase was on the premiums, on regressive taxation.

9:20 p.m.

This government's record of misusing block funding is pretty sordid. It is a pretty tawdry story. The figures are there and they speak for themselves. Now the Treasurer of the same government that unilaterally and arbitrarily reneged on the Edmonton commitment to the municipalities wrings his hands and sheds crocodile tears because the same lousy kind of politics are being applied to him by the federal Liberal government.

There is nothing in the stewardship of this Treasurer or his government with respect to established programs financing over the past five years that would warrant any kind of generosity. The real tragedy is that we will all pay and suffer for the mean-spiritedness and for the con game of our beloved Treasurer with respect to this federal revenue transfer we are all going to pay for. I guess we all owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the Treasurer for his wonderful stewardship.

Mr. Kolyn: Before I start, Mr. Speaker, I recall, as a member of the public accounts committee, that when we had to vote on the motion of the member for St. David, the member for Etobicoke (Mr. Philip) voted with us to have this debate. I ask him whether that is true or not.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, in rehearsing as a minister, I will be happy to answer his question. It is true. But the honourable member also voted against having the other side told. That shows the partisan nature of the committee and the way it was manipulated by the Conservatives for purely partisan reasons.

Mr. Kolyn: I thank the member. Mr. Speaker, while reaffirming my support for the motion proposed by the member for St. David, I wish to emphasize my concern and utter disappointment with the federal government's position on established programs financing.

An abundance of statistical evidence has

already been introduced which throws doubt on the propriety of Ottawa's dealings with the provinces. As such, I will not discuss the fiscal details of the EPF agreements. Rather, I wish to describe the manner in which the agreements were negotiated, or should I say imposed, and the significant changes that can be expected in the relations between the two governments as a result of this most recent EPF experience.

I know the opposition benches are somewhat indignant at debating this motion. When it was originally proposed in the public accounts committee, I believe it was the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley) who attempted to have the issue quashed. At the time he said, "In my view the purpose of the proposed debate in the House is simply to give the provincial government a chance to get off the hook . . . and to spend all its time directing its abuse somewhere other than its own responsibilities."

I should also point out that some members attempted to leave the impression in committee that Ontario should not complain about EPF cutbacks and should simply take the equalization grant to which it was entitled. For the record—

Mr. Breaugh: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I have listened with great interest to the honourable member's comments, and so far he has managed to impugn the motives of at least three different members. If you read carefully what he has just finished saying, he has attributed to the member for St. Catharines and to many other members of that committee, some motives I do not believe they had in mind. At the very least, if he wanted to raise those kind of things, he should have the decency to await the presence of those members in the House.

Mr. Kolyn: I presumed that as members of the public accounts committee, they might have been here.

Mr. Breaugh: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: The honourable member assumes that the members of the public accounts committee should be in the House for this debate. I think the rest of us have the right to assume that the members of the cabinet, who are dolefully absent with one exception over there, ought to be here as well.

Mr. Philip: On that point of order, Mr. Speaker: I notice only two Conservative members, of whom there are six or seven on the public accounts committee, happen to be present; so the honourable member can hardly boast. On the other hand, the New Democratic

Party has all its members from the public accounts committee present tonight.

Mr. Kolyn: For the record, Mr. Speaker, I will state that this province should not be receiving equalization and, in fact, is still not eligible. As it has been Ontario, historically, that has largely financed the equalization program in Canada, it does not seem appropriate that the richest province should receive grants simply because the formula is outdated.

Mr. Mancini: I think the member for St. David wrote that speech.

Mr. Breaugh: I would say, offhand, he is reading.

Mr. Kolyn: That's all right.

As a result, I must admit I find the honourable member's comments regarding established programs financing transfers both uninformed and unwarranted. It is indeed true that this government strongly opposes Ottawa's dictation of new rules regarding EPF transfers. It is also true that we wish to use this debate as a forum for our disappointment and discontent. In fact, today's debate is the first of many opportunities this government shall seek in which to publicize the hostile and dangerous attitude of Trudeau federalism and the inherent threat that Ottawa's approach poses to provincial governments across Canada.

Allow me to remind the member that his federal colleagues have pulled the plug on \$2 billion in EPF funding for Ontario, including \$290 million in the fiscal year 1982 alone. I will add that these cutbacks are in violation of an agreement we reached with Ottawa in 1977, an agreement that Ottawa has torn up without any input or comment from the provinces.

Indeed, the member might not want this debate to take place, because it is here today that I remind this House of our responsibilities to the taxpayers of Ontario and our duty to look after their interests—not just those of this government but of this Legislature. I think it is appalling that Mr. Trudeau's provincial colleagues are so intimidated by his rhetoric that they would allow this pillage of the province's Treasury.

Where does the member think that money is going to come from? I assure him this government is not going to turn around and take it from municipalities. The answer is simple. Mr. MacEachen is telling Ontario that if it wants adequate health and post-secondary education facilities, it will have to pay more or expect less. We say this is not good enough. Ontario should

not have to be denied its \$2-billion entitlement for those services. We negotiated in good faith for it, and we should rightfully receive it. Most important, Ottawa should not be changing the rules half way through the agreement.

As a final reminder to the member and his party colleagues, are they aware that Mr. MacEachen's own parliamentary committee, a majority of whose members were from the minister's own party, came down on the side of the provinces in this debate? This federal parliamentary task force on federal-provincial fiscal arrangements was composed of a Liberal chairman, three Liberal members, two Progressive Conservative members and one New Democratic Party member.

At the public hearings of this committee, they heard from more than 100 organizations and 19 individuals, and 66 written briefs were submitted.

The parliamentary task force's final report on provincial fiscal arrangements said, and I quote:

"We hope that the general message of this long and complex report is clear... We are agreed that the programs examined in the course of our work are serving vital social needs and merit undiminished support. Overall funding of these programs should, in our view, be maintained at no less than current levels... We are all agreed, therefore, that federal-provincial negotiations should be directed towards the goal of undiminished funding for both the health and post-secondary sectors supported through EPF."

9:30 p.m.

I urge all members opposite to understand that this conclusion is drawn from Mr. MacEachen's very own colleagues. As such, I think it is important to note that the federal government is risking more than the equitable provision of health and post-secondary services across Canada.

After all, Ontario is going to survive this crisis, bruised but no worse for wear. We are indeed big enough to cushion the fiscal shock that will hit this province when the full measure of Ottawa's avarice becomes clear. But what about the weak links in the confederate chain? How are the economies in the Maritimes going to adjust to the cutbacks that Ottawa has targeted in that historically disadvantaged region?

It is somewhat perplexing that Mr. MacEachen would explain away EPF cutbacks on so-called restraint grounds. I am sure the member opposite knows, the member for Ottawa East, but is not proud of the fact, that Ottawa's expenditures increased 16 per cent in the same budget

where \$2 billion was cut in EPF transfers to Ontario. This is all the more ironic since it has already been independently established that the cost of running government in Ontario is the lowest per capita in Canada.

The greater issue here is that of credibility in future federal-provincial negotiations. Quite simply, how can we, or should we, trust the federal government when future agreements need input from different levels of government? This is the hard, cold fact which will live on long after our province's economy has absorbed Ottawa's last minute withdrawal of its word. Indeed, the consequences of Ottawa's new approach may well be an era of meanness and mistrust between the federal government and the provinces.

As an example, both levels of government at present do not levy taxes on propane gas. The result of this joint agreement is that the cost of using this alternative energy source is relatively low. But how can we be sure Ottawa is not going to turn around and levy a tax? The fact is, we do not know.

It reminds me of the old adage, "Once bitten, twice shy." I say that with abundant concern and absolute disappointment. After all, if that is where we are headed, the citizens of Ontario will be the ultimate losers.

Finally, I return to the comments of the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley). He suggested in committee that we would use this debate to blame Ottawa for our financial difficulties; fed-bashing is what I think he termed it. In fact, his colleagues have spared no effort this evening to accuse this government of wrongfully fed-bashing Ottawa over the EPF agreement.

If we are indeed guilty of fed-bashing, I should like to point out that we share that honour with Mr. MacEachen's very own colleagues in Ottawa, both opposition parties, as well as every province in Canada. It makes me think the members opposite have abdicated their role as representatives of Ontario's citizens.

Mr. Breaugh: Hold it. Hold it. Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I do not mind when he impugns the motives of the member for St. Catharines but, as I read that last line, that is a little beyond the pale. If he would read the last line of his prepared speech again, I think. Mr. Speaker, you will have to agree that is impugning motives.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Lakeshore.

Mr. Kolyn: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Breagh: Hold it. Mr. Speaker, I have asked you—

The Deputy Speaker: Try to be a little more specific. What would you like me to do?

Mr. Breagh: The rules are very clear.

The Deputy Speaker: What is the point? What would you like me to do?

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, the point of privilege is that the honourable member has impugned the motives of other members of this House and I have asked the chair for a ruling on that.

Mr. Wildman: Has he done it or not?

Mr. Breagh: Perhaps I could clarify and simplify it.

The Deputy Speaker: That would be more helpful.

Mr. Breagh: Re-read the last line.

Mr. Kolyn: It makes me think that the members opposite have abdicated their role as representatives of Ontario's citizens.

Mr. Breagh: Does that not impugn motives?

The Deputy Speaker: I do not think so.

Mr. Treleaven: Sit down.

Mr. Boudria: It's a good point, but it's not a point of privilege.

Mr. Kolyn: Mr. Speaker, if they would spend just one-half of the amount of energy listening to the voices of those who will be affected by these cutbacks as they spend blindly complaining about the rightful concerns of this government, I am sure Ottawa's stance on EPF could be changed overnight. Perhaps as some encouragement, I will add that the future integrity of federal-provincial relations is clearly at stake.

Mr. Ruston: Mr. Speaker, I would like to participate in this debate. So far, it has not been too enlightening, but I will say that some of it has been. The member for St. David gave a rather interesting speech. I did not get a great deal out of it except that she was right and everybody else was wrong.

If one talks about spending money, the member for St. David sure knows how to do it. She headed a task force on provincial rail policy, over which Ontario has no jurisdiction anyway. It was another one of those things where they are reaching all the time to appoint somebody to a commission or something, so they can pay them off; the senate of Ontario.

Just to give an idea of how she wasted that money—and she ought to be ashamed of herself—she spent \$113,398.39 on 13,000 copies

of the Future Role of Rail, A Policy Position; Public Submissions; and Working Papers. She sold them for \$4,099 for a loss of \$109,000. She ought to be ashamed of herself. When people today need money like they do, she threw it away.

Does the honorable member know where those books are? They are up on the fifth floor of this building, which is probably a fire-trap. They should all be burned. They are such nonsense. She gets up here and talks about the federal government spending money. I know they are cutting back as well as anybody does, but God help us, if the people on the other side of the House keep on wasting the money the way they are, we will all be broke.

There is an interesting thing about spending money, but I do not know if anyone has had the opportunity of reading a few remarks from the former Treasurer of this province, Darcy McKeough. He was a rather interesting chap; highly respected on all sides of this House, whether we disagreed with his policies or not. We had many occasions to disagree with him, especially when he was centralizing regional governments all through Ontario, but he has seen the light. Even in this speech, he admitted that he has seen the light since. This was a speech he gave at the Empire Club of Canada called Why Pay Twice? The Cost of Double Government.

He says here, and I am quoting a part of it: "The message itself is simple and brief. It is this: With a few exceptions, every responsibility currently held by the federal and provincial governments would be handled better, more efficiently, more effectively, more economically, and with greater accountability if it were handled by one or the other level, rather than being shared, or even worse, competed over by the two levels."

This happens many times. We now have 11 departments of labour, 11 departments of agriculture, 11 departments of industry, and so on, and so on. He explains that.

I had a case in my own area. The Minister of Housing (Mr. Bennett) had a plan in which the federal government joined whereby a small municipality could form a nonprofit corporation. In my area, the small municipality decided they would build a 20 unit apartment building in a small village. At that time, we could not get the province to build any senior citizen housing, so the municipality, being very aggressive and wanting to keep their people locally when they

retired, formed a nonprofit corporation of the township to build this apartment building.

They wrote letters to Toronto to see if they could get permission to build one of these buildings. They hired a consultant to help them. They had surveys made on the need for it.

After about one and a half years, they asked me if I would bring them down to meet with the officials of the Ministry of Housing. We met with them for about an hour and three quarters, and the reeve of the township, a very sharp fellow—he farms about 300 acres of land, and he is a very good farmer; he is an auctioneer and has a nice young family coming along—what I call a real good citizen of Ontario—

9:40 p.m.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Are we on the same topic?

Mr. Ruston: About money. That's right. Just hold your horses; just be calm.

The Deputy Speaker: All right. What is the reeve's name?

Mr. Ruston: After about an hour and a half the officials in the Ministry of Housing said: "Well, everything is in order. It looks as if you are going to be able to go ahead with the project."

Then the reeve said: "We are going to get all this money and we are going to get some of it at two per cent interest; that's all we are going to have to pay, provided that five units of the 20 are rent-geared-to-income and the other 15 are regular market-value rents. I wonder if you could tell me where this money is really coming from. I know you are going to send us a cheque when we get the contract and the building built."

The official said: "Yes, we will transfer the money to you and see that you get the building paid for, and we will not get involved in it for at least 20 years. If there is any shortage of rent, if you are not getting enough rent to cover the payments, we will probably get involved under some plan we have, but that would not come into effect for 20 years."

So the reeve said: "Well, you have not actually answered my question. Where does the money come from?" He said, "This is a plan we have with the federal government." The reeve said: "That still does not answer my question. Would you tell me how much of it comes from the federal government and how much comes from Ontario?" The fellow hesitated and said: "Well, 100 per cent of the money comes from the federal government."

It is no wonder that in the 1975 election, when the fellow running against me for the Tories had his picture taken with the mayor of the town, who was a Liberal, he said: "There is our new senior citizens' apartment, 32 units; 90 per cent of the money came from the federal government." But nobody knew anything about it. So you wonder why the characters over there go and spend this money—and I mean it: they are characters. I blame Ottawa for it, though. I blame Ottawa for not insisting that they be recognized for it.

The Minister of Government Services (Mr. Wiseman) is looking on and is kind of interested. I wish he would get as interested in the pigeons that are ruining this beautiful building. He ought to be ashamed of himself. He should go around the north wall of all these buildings and see what a beautiful building we have. We want to keep it that way, but he is surely not looking after it. So maybe he had better go back and see what they are doing. He should go out there some morning and see the mess around. He would not allow that in his barn where his cows and cattle are.

Mr. McLean: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I am concerned about what pigeons have to do with public accounts. I came here to listen to the debate on the public accounts. I could recite probably as many things that have happened in my municipality as have happened in this member's riding, and they do not have anything to do with the public accounts. I object to the time that is being wasted.

The Deputy Speaker: To the member for Simcoe East, that is a very good point of order. I tried to make that same point to the member for Essex North already, and he was trying to tie it in.

Mr. Ruston: Mr. Speaker, established programs financing is the sharing of expenses by the two levels of government, and if we talk about sharing by two levels of government, what about the Edmonton commitment? I have here a list of 11 municipalities in my riding, and it gives you an idea. In the township of Rochester, for instance, the municipal taxes are \$250, the elementary school taxes are \$280 and the secondary school taxes are \$232; 79 per cent of the taxes paid there are education taxes alone, and the government members opposite never lived up to their commitment that they made in the Edmonton agreement.

The Deputy Speaker: Are you pointing at me?

Mr. Ruston: Yes. You are the Speaker.

Here is another example. In the township of Maidstone, municipal taxes are \$215, elementary school taxes are \$269 and secondary school taxes are \$219. This government has never lived up to its commitment. I blame the federal government for making decisions that are probably premature. We are now in a very serious situation in our country because of unemployment and a lack of the people who are trained to do jobs they should have been trained for years ago. The government members opposite have the responsibility for education, and they have been letting that go too. They have been abandoning their responsibility to train the people of this province so they can compete in the work force.

Mr. Speaker, we must have co-operation between one level of government and another, but I think the key thing we have to remember is that in the future perhaps we should make those who spend the money collect it. Then we will have better representation.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, I have listened to a great deal of federal-bashing from the other side of the House, and I have listened to several of my colleagues pointing out that the Ontario Conservative government is really in a very weak position when it goes in for federal-bashing on the cutbacks in the transfer payments.

We all know, as my colleague the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) said, that the Conservative government was not using the full amount of the transfer payments for health and post-secondary education which came to it under the block funding arrangement. Yet the Ontario government was one of the leaders in the demand for block funding. It appears that it wanted these transfers not because it thought those programs needed more money or because it wanted to be able to change the pattern of spending in those programs, but because it wanted to be able to divert the money from those programs as it saw fit in order to keep taxes down or to go in for other programs of lower priority. So Ontario's protests sound somewhat hypocritical.

Second, I think it is a case of the pot calling the kettle black, because in municipal grants they have done exactly the same thing they are protesting that the federal government has done: They have cut back below the inflation rate on their grants to the municipalities and, in so doing, they have very seriously affected the social services the municipalities can deliver. They are doing this at a time when we are in a

serious economic recession—some even call it a depression—as a result of which welfare payments are going up, and all sorts of other social services are being strained to the limit. Yet the Ontario government is cutting back in the interests of reducing its deficit. It is doing exactly what the federal government is doing.

Third, I think the Progressive Conservative Party is very hypocritical when it criticizes the federal government for trying to reduce its deficit by whatever means. No party in the country has shouted more loudly for reduced government spending as the answer to inflation. It seems they do not care what kind of government spending is cut as long as it is cut and there is less government intervention in the economy. They are not prepared to have government spending used to stimulate the economy, to get people back to work.

When they start to demand less government spending they can expect their transfer payments to be the first to be attacked by an old party government because that is the easy place to cut government spending. Of course, the Progressive Conservatives are in favour of government spending when it comes to executive jets or bailing out Suncor, but when it comes to transfer payments to the municipalities, that is where they do the cutting.

9:50 p.m.

I think Ontario is going to have to start facing reality instead of passing futile motions of this sort because the federal government has passed Bill C-97. It went through on April 5 and it is not going to be changed. We are faced with a situation here that I think the provincial Treasurer is going to have to meet in his budget.

The federal Treasurer and the Minister of National Health and Welfare tell us that the established programs financing payments for our health and post-secondary education will go up by 12 per cent in the coming year and that there really are not serious cutbacks in that area. They are neglecting to tell us one fact and that is that the revenue guarantee payment was in effect considered part of the payments for health and post-secondary education. It was thrown in as a sweetener in 1977 when it was about to expire. In all of the federal figures on those transfer payments, the revenue guarantee payment money was included in the federal tables.

Therefore, if one is going to look at what the federal government is really doing in health and post-secondary education, instead of providing a 12 per cent increase, as the Minister of

National Health and Welfare tells us, it is actually only producing a 4.6 per cent increase in those payments. This is far below the inflation rate and it is far below the needs in those areas.

We will have a second-class university system, as the university presidents and the university faculty associations have pointed out time and again in letters to the members of this Legislature. We will have a second-class university system, having not been able to attract new professors, and having cutbacks in staff and cutbacks in courses.

We will also have a second-class health system in this province under this kind of an increase in the transfer payments of 4.6 per cent. We will not be able to rebuild our plant, the hospital plant which is getting out of date and which lacks technological equipment that it needs. We will not be able to find the chronic care beds that we need. We will not be able to bring in the services that are not being covered under medicare, such as dental care. We will not have a first-class health system.

The provincial Treasurer is really going to have to face up to the fact that if he wants to have a first-class health and post-secondary education system for this province, he is going to have to at least make up the difference between that 4.6 per cent increase the feds are giving us and the rate of inflation.

If the Minister of Health (Mr. Grossman) is going to give all of any increase in health spending to the doctors, the doctors themselves will find they are working in an obsolete and outdated plant, that the hospital services they need for quality care are not there and that the beds are plugged with people who should be in chronic care beds. Even the doctors will lose out if they get all of the extra health dollars for themselves in their own pockets.

The provincial Treasurer is going to have to face these things when his budget comes down on May 13 and he is going to have to find out where he is going to get that extra eight per cent he needs for those two vital services.

I say it is time he started to look at the areas he has not been taxing or where he has been reducing taxes, the area of the corporate welfare bums of this province, the banks, and the other half of the capital gains tax. There is a considerable amount of money and wealth in this province that is not bearing its fair share of taxation that should be helping us provide those first-class health and first-class post-secondary education services that we need. But the pro-

vincial Treasurer, up until now, has shown no courage in taxing the areas where the money is.

The public, the general taxpayer, is not prepared for further tax increases beyond the \$600 million he got last year. We are liable to have a tax revolt, I say to the Treasurer, if he tries to put another \$600 million on. The taxpayer is not prepared to pay user fees for those two services of health and post-secondary education, because he knows user fees are regressive.

Everybody pays the same regardless of his ability to pay. This is also true of university fees unless students are able to get substantial student aid. Everybody pays the same if there are user fees on hospital care, ambulance services and that sort of thing. So the Treasurer is facing those choices: either get the money where the money is and keep those services first class, or admit that under this government we cannot expect first-class services in those areas.

Mr. Villeneuve: Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to speak in this debate, having sat on the public accounts committee. EPF is not an exciting sounding group of letters. It is a term that describes joint financing of health and post-secondary programs by the federal government and the provinces. It is, in its ideal form, the heart of what our federal system of government is all about. It is an agreement, a co-operative initiative, between two levels of government, designed to work for the greater benefit of all Canadians, no matter where they live.

EPF was a result of intense negotiations between the provinces and Ottawa back in 1976. At that time, the agreement was hailed as a breakthrough in federal-provincial relations, a glowing example of what our two major levels of government can achieve when working together. EPF clarified and disentangled the responsibilities of the two levels of government.

For Ottawa, it gave the federal government the opportunity to bring a greater measure of equity into per capita grants to the provinces. In addition, it made these grants more predictable and easier to budget.

This agreement gave provinces the luxury of time. We were better able to schedule our spending priorities. We could develop long-term programs with greater certainty that the money would be there. EPF gave the provinces greater opportunity to experiment in more efficient ways of providing services to the public.

From all aspects, the EPF agreement that

resulted from the discussions six years ago was by no means a provincial raid on the federal Treasury. It was an agreement freely entered into by all parties involved. In addition, it was clearly understood by all parties that the burden of fiscal risk lay with the provinces, which were now fully responsible for meeting the growth cost pressures in health and education.

That was the idea behind EPF. It is on the record, and can be found in both federal and provincial documents dating from 1976 and 1977. Today, however, the story is different. Today, the co-operation promised in 1976 has been replaced by antagonism and confrontation. Today, what was a fine example of our federal system at its best is now the shame of our Confederation.

When Minister of Finance Allan MacEachen brought down his budget last November, he did more than declare war on the Canadian economy. In a series of short paragraphs, he buried the concept of co-operative federalism which at one time had been the goal of Prime Minister Trudeau.

The minister killed co-operative federalism by announcing substantial reductions in EPF grants to the provinces, but it is not just the deductions themselves which hurt; it is the fact that MacEachen and his aides refuse to discuss these cuts with the provinces.

10 p.m.

The reductions were laid before provincial treasurers and they were challenged to take it or leave it. They were not even challenged to do that. They were simply handed an ultimatum and told to swallow their pride in their legislatures back home. Despite provincial protests, despite the fact the treasurers banded together and offered to negotiate a consensus and offered to meet Ottawa part way, the answer was no, there would be no deal on EPF, no deal for provincial treasurers and no deal for the Canadian people.

What does the Finance Minister's no deal on EPF mean to the provincial government and to the taxpayers of this province who pay 43 cents of every dollar that goes into the federal Treasury? Our province will lose nearly \$613 million over the next two years and face a loss of \$1.9 billion during the five-year period leading up to 1987.

What will these cuts in EPF mean to the average family in Ontario? These are questions we have to answer. Will we all be forced to dig deeper to maintain our health care services, to continue support for scientists and researchers

working at our universities, and to provide students with the latest books and journals and up-to-date equipment? How much more can Ontario taxpayers be expected to pay?

I happened to be a member of the federal House of Commons just 20 years ago. I am not trying to lay blame on one party or provincial government or anything. The total budget for all of Canada for administering everything, paying the interest and everything, was \$6.5 billion. Our demands this year to meet our provincial health expenditures alone exceed that amount in Ontario. That is how serious it is to the taxpayers.

The Socialists over there are crying for more service for the poverty stricken. We have as much heart and consideration for poor people as anybody has. The beef producers and the farming community, the grain growers and the hog producers this last year are not even breaking even. We have 300,000 people unemployed. The revenue has to come from somewhere.

I am not blaming the federal government for cutting back but I think its approach was wrong. I realize that dealing with 10 provincial governments of different political stripes is not easy. Nevertheless, I do believe they should have laid out the facts and stated plainly: "We do not have the revenues to meet these continued expenses. You may just as well all know it now and settle in that manner."

We are all affected. Let us face facts. One cannot make expenditures if one does not have the money to meet the bills. Therefore, it is a serious situation for all concerned.

Every member in this House is worried today about what is happening with the medical profession. Everybody knows before it is all over it is going to cost the taxpayers of Ontario money. Look at the average citizens across this province. They are not in a position to accept much more in the way of taxation. Those who are carrying the load are at the stage where they are burdened such that if everybody sits down everything will stop. We are at that serious point in life whether we like it or not.

I am not condemning the federal government. I realize it has a lot more to suffer than we have for one simple reason: I read in the paper less than three weeks ago that it is costing \$16.7 billion for interest charges on money the federal government has to pay interest on. When 20 years ago the country operated with \$6.5 billion, it is time for all governments to think seriously of what we are going through and where we are

going. It is nice to cry for money, but on the other hand, someone has to pay the debt.

I want to say the reductions will result in an additional burden on the provincial Treasury. We cannot get out of that. We are already beset with the challenge of meeting a variety of commitments in spite of high interest rates, inflation and a slow-growth economy.

Instead of encouragement and support from the federal government to meet new budget restrictions, what do we hear? Prime Minister Trudeau accuses the provinces of diverting EPF funds for purposes other than health care and education. Instead of a plea for co-operation, we are accused of pretty well robbing the public purse.

Are the Prime Minister's accusations true? Members will recall Mr. Justice Hall's report, Canada's National-Provincial Health Program for the 1980s. Mr. Justice Hall looked at the EPF grants, he looked at provincial health and educational programs and he looked into the Prime Minister's accusations. What did he find? Mr. Justice Hall found the accusation to be false. The provinces have not and are not diverting funds granted under EPF.

Ottawa has also claimed that the provinces are simply not meeting their commitments in funding joint programs. The Economic Council of Canada looked at this claim and concluded that the provinces are contributing their fair share. They concluded that Ottawa's claim was false.

Let us look at the statistics for a moment. The figures show that on the whole Ontario allocates more resources to health care and post-secondary education than the provincial average. Looking at health care expenditures as a fraction of total provincial budgets, Ontario spends two per cent more than the all-province average across Canada.

In 1981, Ontario's spending on education stood at 7.2 per cent, well above the national average of 6.5 per cent. Members can talk as they like, but these are facts. Certainly these figures indicate Ontario is meeting its commitments, in both fields of health care and post-secondary education. But the federal government is not content to let its accusations rest there. The Minister of Finance has defended his cuts in EPF on the grounds that grants to the provinces have increased far beyond Ottawa's ability to pay.

I repeat, if that approach had been taken, without making it a straight "no," I honestly believe men of goodwill would have under-

stood. We all know when dealing with financial problems with our neighbours or friends it is not hard to come to a misunderstanding, especially if we feel we are being shortchanged. Nevertheless, if we are told the facts, generally speaking people who have a reasonable understanding will accept the facts.

Mr. Bradley: But didn't the provincial Premiers in Victoria—

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry has the floor. This is not question period.

Mr. Bradley: Didn't the provincial Premiers in Victoria tell the federal government to cut its deficit?

Mr. Villeneuve: That might be. I am not going into that. How true is this claim? Statistics in the 1981 Ontario budget paper, *Renegotiations of Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements*, show that growth in federal transfers to the provinces fall below growth in general federal spending. That is one of the difficulties.

10:10 p.m.

While it is true that Ottawa's share of all government revenue collected in Canada has declined, these declines came about during the 1950s and 1960s when the provinces introduced the social services and support schemes that are taken for granted today.

In many ways it is appropriate for us to be debating the established programs financing this week. To me, EPF and similar programs are what our Confederation is all about. It symbolizes our federal system at work. It demonstrates the good things that can happen when the massive physical power of the federal government is linked with the discretion of the provinces, the level of government best equipped to appreciate local needs and priorities.

Last week we witnessed the signing of a new Constitution for our nation. Our monarch, the Prime Minister and the chief law officers of the federal government all signed our new Constitution into law. In her speech following this ceremony, the Queen pointed out that this new Constitution can mark a beginning for Canada. We now have our system of government in our own hands, and it is up to us to shape and mould it to the best benefit for ourselves and our children.

I hope the spirit of that occasion will linger in Ottawa for a few weeks at least. It is my hope that discussion on EPF will reopen, because I know this province and other provinces will leap at the opportunity to create a more just

settlement of this controversy. I see by the papers that the federal Minister of Finance is sounding out different views, and perhaps there is some hope.

No system of government, no framework for delivery of necessary services can be built on the foundation of rancour and distress. I ask co-operation from Ottawa. I ask co-operation from the federal Minister of Finance. I ask for a return to days I recall with pride when Frost and St. Laurent, Robarts and Diefenbaker, worked side by side to build a better Canada.

There may be discord abroad, but let us have peace at home. Let us have negotiations on EPF and the return of a harmony between Ottawa and the provinces on fiscal arrangements. Let the spirit of co-operation that brought our Constitution home exert a beneficial effect on the EPF impasse.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I do not have to tell you that all governments are facing tremendous fiscal difficulties and that we have come through many years of expanding economies when governments could undertake expanding programs.

During those years our negotiations with Ottawa have been largely amicable. Even in the days when the member who just sat down was a member of Parliament, there were sufficient revenues for Canada and the province of Ontario for us to look with benign generosity on other provinces, support without equivocation the concept of equalization and part with the many millions of dollars paid by Ontario to Ottawa and other provinces in the interests of national unity.

In many respects, however, since about 1975 we in Ontario have been living in a provincial fiscal fool's paradise. Beginning with the successful efforts of the government to win the 1975 election, we undertook one of the first of many very large provincial deficits. The Speaker no doubt recalls the programs of that time, the one-time home owner grants, the removal of the sales tax until after the election and so on, in addition to our deficit of close to \$1 billion in 1975 dollars, which we thought then were inflated but which today we can refer to as real dollars.

Since that time, I suppose because of minority government, the government of Ontario has been afraid to cut back on some of its popular programs. It has been afraid to raise taxes and has made a virtue, a political virtue at least, of holding the line as fiscal pressures increased. This has been largely possible because of our deficits and our borrowings in New York and in

Canada. It has also been made possible because of the established programs financing procedures, which had their precursors in various systems of grants that have been payable for many years.

It has already been pointed out that, as the federal per capita grant payable in Ontario went up during that period by 27 per cent, the provincial per capita grants for the same programs were reduced by 29.3 per cent. I believe those figures are telling. The responsibility to pay for these programs moved more and more to the government of Canada and the federal taxpayers and away from the provincial taxpayers. We know they are the same people, and that is where the reference to Darcy McKeough's speech has such a great significance. While we have three or four, sometimes five, levels of government, we really have only one set of taxpayers. What they cannot abide is the overlapping of services and the unnecessary increase in costs that often accompanies that.

If one refers to the most recent budget, which is now a year old, one will notice that the Treasury of Ontario is enriched by \$3.3 billion in shared-cost programs. In addition to that, the government collects for us \$4.38 billion of so-called provincial income tax. These are the days when many of us, if we have not already sent our income tax returns away, are worrying about them and wondering why our wives have not got them finished for us to sign. There are only a few days left, and when we write out those cheques or send the returns away—actually they go to Sudbury, wherever that is, with great respect—we write out the cheques to somebody we identify with Pierre Trudeau and Allan MacEachen.

Of course, a tremendous percentage of that, 48 per cent, is a provincial tax, which we have responsibility for by enactment here, but it is all collected in Ottawa and returned to us with no strings attached. I am glad the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Ashe) is getting involved. He keeps threatening to collect the tax himself, which is the most idle threat we have had from any provincial minister in my time. If it is all added up, it means the government of Canada is collecting close to \$8 billion of this year's estimated expenditures of \$17 billion. I know they are considerably larger than that.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Where did you get \$17 billion?

Mr. Nixon: Here it is in the book.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: It is \$18.4 billion.

Mr. Nixon: Yes, that is right; but this is in the budget paper we received a year ago, which is where all these figures are collected. God knows the minister has spent a lot more money he did not budget for, and he has collected a lot more he did not budget for. We cannot help his inadequate predictions. If we had a Treasurer who knew what he was doing—

Hon. Mr. Ashe: It was \$18.4 billion. You can't even read.

Mr. Nixon: I do not want my train of thought to be diverted by my friend from the reactor. He has been living in the shadow of that reactor so long that it is having an effect on him.

I want to point out that if one adds together the money that is transferred, no strings attached, by the federal government collecting our provincial income tax, to the amount it pays, no strings attached, on the established programs financing, it is paying 44 cents out of every dollar we spend.

At the provincial level, the services we provide under the Constitution—I do not have to list them, although I will: schools, hospitals, highways, transit, parks, courts, pollution control and so on—are all programs that affect people directly in their lives, in their ability to educate their children, to have a job themselves and to enjoy life in their environment.

When we consider, for example, that every time somebody goes out and opens yet another William G. Davis school, 44 cents out of every dollar contributed by the province comes from Ottawa—it has already been pointed out that in some programs close to 100 per cent of the dollars come from Ottawa—there is a dislocation in the democratic process associated with the fact that the people facing us here, the members of the government, are in their generous spirit providing programs and constructing buildings and highways that are to a great extent financed through the taxing powers of another level of government.

10:20 p.m.

We treat the municipalities in somewhat the same way. There are many municipalities and some school boards that receive a very large proportion of their dollars from the provincial level. Without going into the ramifications of the Canada assistance plan, members know that in fact we are nothing but a conduit through which federal dollars go to the municipality to pay for a good many of our municipal welfare programs and programs associated with them. It is absolutely confusion personified. I believe it

interferes with the healthy projection of democracy when the taxpayers, who are also the voters, do not know to whom they should give credit or whom to blame for the inadequacies of certain programs and the generosity and sensitivities of others.

One of things I am also concerned with is that, as the economic pressures come on, governments are subject to almost relentless pressures to cut costs. We need only look at what the government of Quebec has had to face recently when it announced not only a freeze but also a cutback in payments to many people controlled by the authority of the National Assembly. That is going to be very difficult to make wash and to actually apply. People are not going to sit still very long while a government imposes a cutback on them.

The financial situation in Quebec is appalling, even compared with ours or that of the government of Canada. While their population is only a bit less than ours, their gross provincial product is substantially less; yet their budget is considerably more and their deficit is even worse than ours, which is pushing \$2 billion for this year, and God knows what the Treasurer has in store for us a few weeks or a few days from now.

One thing we can be sure is in store for us is that the responsibility for all the economic problems he is going to unload on this House on May 13 is going to belong to the government of Canada. That may be all right for politicians speaking to some people who are ignorant of the difficulties in financing at all levels, but for the Treasurer himself, particularly if he acts as if he believes it, it is absolutely unacceptable.

The thing I find particularly unacceptable is that he is prepared to insist that his public servants, who in the past and in the grand traditions of this province have been apolitical and who have been advisers to the ministers rather than apologists for the ministers, take positions that are so crassly political that we wonder what sort of advice the Treasurer is actually receiving.

I want to quote a line or two from a statement by Mr. Tom Campbell, Deputy Treasurer, issued on Friday, March 19, 1982: "This is a sad day for the spirit of co-operation and trust that has made this country work for the last 115 years." I expected my friends to applaud violently, because that may be what they believe. That is the sort of thing a Treasurer can say, and Darcy McKeough, if he had been here, would have been saying it in

spades; but it is surely not the thing for the Deputy Treasurer of Ontario to say.

Just as a side point as my time disappears very rapidly, the fact that the Treasurer is allowing the chief economic analyst for Salomon Brothers in New York to come up to Ontario to speak to a fund-raising dinner for the Muskoka Progressive Conservative Association is another case in point. Salomon Brothers have handled our external financing since about 1912. They are an institution in the province as governments have changed over these many years, a world-class institution that has been responsible for the borrowing of all of Ontario Hydro's money, all of the external debt, except our deutsche marks, for the province of Ontario. For their chief economic analyst to come to Ontario to speak to the Treasurer's leadership fund-raising is absolutely appalling. We must assume, if we believe in democracy, that governments can and will change.

How could a Liberal government ever deal with the Salomon Brothers, even though we have dealt with them in previous incarnations going back for more than half a century, when they are misled by the Treasurer of Ontario in a way that allows them to participate in the political affairs of this province? I am telling members that I believe the Treasurer of Ontario is losing his credibility and no more so than when he is prepared to blame the federal Minister of Finance and federal policies for all of our own economic problems.

It is great to have a whipping boy, particularly one as unpopular as the government of Canada and Messrs. Trudeau and MacEachen. There is no doubt about that as far as their popularity is concerned. I personally believe that Mr. Trudeau has given and continues to give the nation the best leadership of any Prime Minister in our history. That is my strong feeling.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: You don't believe that.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I am glad you agree with me anyway. I do feel this whole approach towards blaming the federal government for all of our own provincial economic inadequacies and difficulties is a serious attempt to mislead the electorate into removing the pressures from the government of Ontario for the problems it is going to be facing in the next few days and the next few weeks as it is forced to bring down a budget.

This whole approach towards making a report from the standing committee is just a trumped-up affair. Tom Campbell went in and criticized the government of Canada and its policies more strongly than the crassest Tory over there. They would not have the nerve to criticize the government of Canada the way he did, and he is supposed to be our principal public servant.

I think back to the days when Rendall Dick was the Deputy Treasurer. We never would have seen him do that. He had a position that gave the kind of leadership to the public service that would establish it as one of the best in Canada, if not the best in Canada. I do not blame Tom; I blame the Treasurer for allowing the decrepitation of the public service, particularly in the Treasury in that connection. I am concerned about that.

I am told by the member for Etobicoke (Mr. Philip)—the honourable member says he will vouch for it himself, and he is nodding to me even now—that as the officials left after this fed-bashing project at the public accounts committee they were heard to say to each other, "This is a good rehearsal for the budget."

There is no doubt in my mind that for once, now that we have a majority government, we are going to hear no more of that old political bull about no new taxes and no reduction in services. We are going to have a slashing of services; we are going to have a huge increase in taxes; we are going to have a huge increase in our debt, and the feds are going to be blamed by the authority of the Treasurer, dictating to his deputy in a way that should not be allowed in a democratic system.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Oshawa.

Interjections.

10:30 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: I direct the honourable member's attention to the clock.

Mr. Breaugh: I am waiting for a little order, Mr. Speaker. I would like to address a few remarks to the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller), but he does not care enough to be in his seat at the end of this debate. Failing that, I would like to address a few remarks to the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Miss Stephenson), who has not been here all night long, or perhaps to the Minister of Health (Mr. Grossman), who is also very directly impacted by this serious problem but who has not been around all night long either. There is nobody to talk to except a few depraved people trying to make a little political hyperbole.

Mr. Speaker: Is the member for Oshawa going to move the adjournment of the debate?

Mr. Breaugh: I would be happy to move the adjournment.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Oshawa moves the adjournment of the debate. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, it was my understanding that we were going to vote on the motion now.

Mr. Breaugh: I would withdraw my motion of adjournment but, listening to the smart-ass remarks opposite, I will let the motion stand.

Mr. Speaker: The motion is for the adoption of the report of the standing committee on public accounts. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

Mr. Newman: The motion to adjourn takes precedence.

Mr. Speaker: Did the member not withdraw his motion?

The member for Oshawa has moved the adjournment of the debate.

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Motion negatived.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the report of the standing committee on public accounts be adopted?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 10:34 p.m.

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Ontario

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

No. 32

Legislature of Ontario Debates

Official Report (Hansard)



Second Session, Thirty-Second Parliament
Friday, April 23, 1982

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO

Friday, April 23, 1982

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, today I would like to table the Ministry of Transportation and Communications and the Ministry of Northern Affairs road construction program for the fiscal year 1982-83.

In all, an estimated \$344 million will be spent for construction on the King's highway system in northern and southern Ontario, an increase of approximately \$24.8 million over 1981-82. In addition, we will be subsidizing municipal road construction for another \$250 million, which generates about \$460 million in total expenditures when the municipalities' shares are included. In total, some \$804 million will be spent on projects considered critical, in order to preserve the present quality of the existing highway system, a system that ensures the efficient transport of goods and people in Ontario.

Briefly then, we are proposing new work on a total of 877 kilometres of the provincial highway system in southern Ontario, primarily on two-lane highways, including the scheduled construction of 59 bridges. And, as part of the government's proposed expansion program under the direction of the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development, an additional \$25 million is included in the road construction program for work in the Golden Horseshoe.

In northern Ontario, my ministry will continue to carry out the planning, design and construction of some 452 kilometres of provincial highways, a system I am sure all members know is also the responsibility of the Ministry of Northern Affairs, which allocates funds for capital road construction. Again, the majority of the work will be primarily on two-lane highways, although the construction of passing lanes, truck climbing lanes and remote airports also is included.

Details of all of these projects and others are contained in the program I am tabling now, copies of which will go to all members via the legislative post office. I hope the members who wish to pick up those programs will be able to do

so. I know they are of great interest to the members, and I hope the copies will be in their mailboxes so they can get them today before they leave. I am tabling six copies of the report with the Clerk of the House at this time.

LAKESPAN MARINE INC. SERVICES

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak to the House this morning regarding the withdrawal of Lakespan Marine Inc. services. This operation was a roll-on, roll-off truck ferry service between the ports of Oshawa and Oswego, New York. Lakespan was a joint venture between Marinav Corp., formerly Rideau Shipping of Ottawa, and CN Marine, a division of the Canadian National Railway. Yesterday the partners announced a suspension of the Lakespan service.

The government of Ontario first became involved in the concept of roll-on, roll-off shipping in the early 1970s and continues to support the concept. Major firms in both the United States and Canada continue to express strong interest in a shipping service across Lake Ontario. However, traffic growth was slower than originally anticipated, and this created a major cash-flow problem for the company.

The roll-on, roll-off service not only reduced travel time but also provided a viable means of energy conservation for trucks previously taking the longer route around the Niagara Peninsula. As well, truck volumes on the Queen Elizabeth Way were reduced.

Lakespan provided an alternative to the shipping public. In addition, the Lakespan service proved that Lake Ontario is navigable year-round, which was another shipping concern. The ports also proved their ability to accommodate and efficiently handle this new type of traffic. However, the slow economic times led to an overall decline for transportation services not only worldwide but locally, and this had a major effect on the potential growth of Lakespan.

I recognize that as recently as this week my ministry and I received several letters from Ontario businesses and officials in support of continued Lakespan operations; I also recognize the value of the service and continue to believe there is a role to be played in this aspect of shipping. But the hard fact remains that until

economic conditions allow for an upswing in the field of transportation services my ministry regretfully feels obliged to withhold any further financial support for the Lakespan service at this time.

ESTIMATES

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a statement to the House in my capacity as government House leader.

I would like to indicate to the House, as is our practice under standing order 45, the allocation of hours for estimates for this year and the order of the estimates. I will be putting motions later today to refer the five estimates of the justice field to standing committee, the nine estimates of the resources development field to standing committee and the seven estimates of the social development field to standing committee.

We propose to consider all the general government field estimates in the House in committee of supply, except for the Office of the Assembly, the Office of the Ombudsman and the Office of the Provincial Auditor, which will be referred to standing committee.

Beginning tomorrow, Mr. Speaker, your daily Order Paper should show the following schedule: In the committee of supply: Northern Affairs, eight hours; Government Services, four hours; Management Board, seven hours; the Lieutenant Governor, Premier and Cabinet, five hours; Treasury and Economics, 11 hours; Revenue, seven and a half hours; Intergovernmental Affairs, five hours.

In the standing committee on administration of justice: Correctional Services, six hours; Justice policy, four hours; Consumer and Commercial Relations, 20 hours; Solicitor General, 10 hours; Attorney General, 15 hours.

10:10 a.m.

In the standing committee on resources development: Environment, 16 hours; Natural Resources, 18 hours; Energy, 10 hours; Resources policy, seven hours; Industry and Trade, 12 hours; Municipal Affairs and Housing, 15 hours; Agriculture and Food, 20 hours; Labour, 22 hours; Transportation and Communications, 15 hours.

In the standing committee on social development: Community and Social Services, 20 hours; Education, 14 hours; Tourism and Recreation, 10 hours; Social policy, five hours; Colleges and Universities, eight hours; Health, 23 hours; Citizenship and Culture, five hours.

In the standing committee on general government: Office of the Assembly, three hours;

Office of the Ombudsman, three hours; Office of the Provincial Auditor, three hours.

VISITOR

Mr. Speaker: Just before proceeding, it has been drawn to my attention that a former government member has joined us in the east members' gallery, Sid Handleman, who is well known to all the members.

ORAL QUESTIONS

SPADINA EXPRESSWAY

Mr. Peterson: Welcome back, Sidney. Who are you lobbying today?

Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Premier on a program that was conspicuously absent from his Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program that seemed to recycle a number of his other programs, and that is the Spadina expressway.

The Premier is aware that several years ago it was proposed that provincially owned lands south of Highway 400 be exchanged for the Spadina lands. The Premier is also aware that in February, the province turned over the Highway 400 lands, but that was not in exchange for any turnover of the Spadina lands. I want to know the Premier's position with respect to this question at this time.

The Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow) has said he will move to expropriate after May 2 or 3, if there is no resolution of this problem. What is the Premier's position on this matter? Will he move to expropriate if that is not the case?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, my position on the problem is that we are looking for a resolution.

Mr. Peterson: Perhaps the Premier will assist us, because he has been seeking a resolution for the 10 or 12 years he has been Premier and nobody tends to know what he is doing from day to day. Is he going to honour that commitment to go ahead and expropriate after May 3, when he has promised to so do, so he can honour a number of commitments he has made over the past few years? Is he going to do that? Yes or no?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I really did answer the question and I made no commitment, as I recall, to expropriate per se. The Minister of Transportation and Communications, in an attempt to bring this matter to a conclusion, has suggested this as a possibility. My intent, desire and preference would be to see this resolved on an amicable basis.

I point out to the Leader of the Opposition that, while I know he has trouble with his calendar, actually the solution to Spadina was stated some time I think during the summer of 1971, so in fact it is not 12 years, it is only 10 years and some nine months. I just thought I would give him the factual information.

The most relevant part of the whole discussion is the fact that the decision was taken not to extend the Spadina expressway. That is being maintained by the government of this province, a position supported by some of the honourable member's colleagues at the time and rejected by others of his colleagues. That is totally consistent with the reformed Liberal Party of Ontario, which on crucial issues is always divided as to what it wants and does not want.

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Premier, since the Minister of Transportation and Communications has given a firm, unequivocal commitment that he will move to expropriate if negotiations are not successful by May 1, is the Premier's unwillingness to repeat that firm, unequivocal commitment this morning an indication that the government is backing off?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I do not think the honourable member, if he listened very closely to what I said, could gain that interpretation. I think what I said was, because this is always the way I like to do things, my preference is to see this resolved in a very amicable fashion. It is as simple as that.

Mr. Peterson: I apologize to the Premier, Mr. Speaker. He has not been equivocating for 12 years; he has been equivocating for 10 years and nine months, and he is quite right to ask for my apology.

Let me remind the Premier what the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow) said to the Metro Chairman in a letter of March 4, 1982: "If for any reason this agreement is not executed by May 1, 1982, the Ministry of Transportation and Communications will invoice Metropolitan Toronto for 50 per cent of the cost of Black Creek Drive. Furthermore, the province will immediately initiate expropriation procedures to acquire the Spadina land."

The Premier, in a letter of May 19, 1981, to the member for Wilson Heights (Mr. Rotenberg) said: "I believe we should continue to conclude this matter through discussion and agreement. If that is not possible, then I believe government legislative action should be the procedure we should follow."

The Premier has made so many governmental

commitments to act on May 1 or 2 or 3, which is the Monday—I will give him the benefit of the calendar on that one and will give him until May 3—so why is he not prepared now to give the House a definite answer and to give assurances to those people who have wanted to believe him in the past on this question but who are ceaseingly believing him on this question?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I do not know how people can be "ceaseingly believing." The member, being a distinguished graduate and apparently a member of the bar, I believe will find that is grammatically impossible to do.

Apart from that he was asking me a question based on a letter from the Minister of Transportation and Communications, until he remembered it was from the minister, and then referred to a letter stating my point of view to the very distinguished member for Wilson Heights. In that letter I suggested to him a year ago that my preference was then—and it still is—that it be resolved in a friendly, amicable fashion. Notwithstanding that, the Minister of Transportation and Communications has communicated some of the alternatives to Metropolitan Toronto.

Very recently one or two of the people who have been following this issue for a limited period of time, like 10 years and nine months, have communicated to me their enthusiastic support for the continued policy of this government not to extend the Spadina expressway. I can assure the honourable member that they accept the fact that, after 10 years and nine months, no shovel has gone into the ground, no concrete has been laid and the Spadina expressway has not been extended. That was the fundamental position, and will continue to be the policy of the government of this province.

Mr. Speaker: A new question from the Leader of the Opposition.

An hon. member: You are supposed to pour concrete as opposed to laying it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: In my limited experience I lay concrete, I do not pour it. Because I do not have the talent to pour it, I lay it.

Mr. Peterson: I was so excited by the Premier's answer that a button popped off my coat.

PENSIONS

Mr. Peterson: I would like to ask the Premier a question about the equally clear speech he gave yesterday to the joint meeting of the Toronto Society of Financial Analysts. He discussed some of the macroeconomic problems in

this country and the use of public sector restraint as a tool and, of course, came down unequivocally on both sides of that issue, too.

Let me be precise about some of the things he said in his speech yesterday. The Premier said that in talking about pension reform, he believed the governments had to start taking the lead. He said he was aware that British Columbia has now dropped its objection to the child-rearing drop-out provision of the Canada pension plan and that Ontario is the only province still objecting to that. Why does the Premier not drop his veto to that particular clause so that we can get on with at least that area of pension reform, which is important?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I think the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) already has this under consideration. Prior to my remarks yesterday to that distinguished group, I was introduced by the chairman, who was enthusiastic about his support for this government in the way it has handled its financial affairs. I sensed that he said that probably as a supporter of the federal Liberal Party of Canada, but I was very doubtful that it was as a supporter of the Liberal Party of Ontario, that great reform party that does not even know how to define the word "reform".

I then pointed out to the group our concerns which are the general principles enunciated by the Treasurer, who I think has already indicated that he is assessing the particular item that the Leader of the Opposition has raised, and that is about as definitive an answer as I am going to get. I do apologize that the answer to my last question prompted the member to lose the button on his jacket. The people at Vickers and Benson will be very upset.

10:20 a.m.

Mr. Peterson: Let me tell the members that whoever introduced the Premier yesterday was not nearly as enthusiastic as the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing who introduced Brian Mulroney last night. The Premier has trouble on his back benches. The Premier has been equivocating on this issue for a long time. He said he was going to wait for the royal commission and the select committee on pensions and he said he was aware of the matter. It is a question with which he is familiar. The Premier knows he is the last holdout. He has been one of the major stumbling blocks in this area.

Why can the Premier not show his good faith at least in the matter of pension reform on this

issue by phoning up the federal minister today and saying, "We withdraw our veto"? Why do we not get on with that aspect of pension reform that will, for the entitled people, increase their income by some 22 per cent? Those are some of the people in our society who need that help the most. How can the Premier lecture them about pension reform when he is a major stumbling block in this area?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I do not think anyone can get the impression that I was in fact lecturing the government of Canada. Far be it for me to do that.

In answer to the preliminary question asked by the Leader of the Opposition, I am very delighted that my cabinet colleague from Ottawa introduced a very able Progressive Conservative at a gathering last night. I would only say that unlike the Leader of the Opposition, who campaigned against his leader for some four years while sitting right beside him, I am very loyal to our national leader. I have no federal aspirations.

Mr. Peterson: I don't blame you because you and your leader have a great deal in common.

Hon. Mr. Davis: All I can say is I am very flattered.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I have not quite finished.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, would you bring Brutus to order there.

Mr. Breithaupt: Our morning smile.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, as I was saying in answer to the question, and he really did raise it, unlike a number of members opposite, in the last federal campaign I was there with my national leader. They were not there with their's. In fact, I had our national leader involved in our last provincial campaign, whereas the Liberal Party of Ontario really refused. In fact, they said to the Prime Minister of this great country, "We do not want you here in Metropolitan Toronto for breakfast." I cannot think of a more ludicrous, ridiculous position but it is so typical and symbolic of the Liberal Party of Ontario. When the polls are going well for their national leader they are all on his coat-tails and when they are not going well they want to disown him.

Mr. Bradley: What does that have to do with the question on pensions? Absolutely nothing.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I would also say to the suggestion that I call the federal minister this

morning, that chances are the federal minister would not be in.

Mr. Bradley: That had nothing at all to do with the question.

Mr. Speaker: Just before proceeding, and to enlighten some of the members who have drawn a fact to my attention that the Premier's answer may not have been specifically to the question asked, I would have to tell all honourable members that I had great difficulty in ascertaining which question he was to respond to. The honourable member for Bellwoods.

Hon. Mr. Davis: You people walk into it every day.

Mr. McClellan: By way of supplementary, I interpret from the Premier's circumlocution—

Mr. Stokes: Along with his interdigital prestidigitation.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, since I interpret from the Premier's answer that there are some grounds for optimism that the budget will contain an implementation of the select committee on pension's recommendation with respect to the child care drop-out provision, can I ask the Premier whether we can be optimistic as well that the budget will deal with another equally important recommendation that the guaranteed annual income supplement single rate for pensioners in Ontario will be raised significantly so that tens of thousands of seniors who rely on the Gains program will have an income above the poverty line?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, in answering the leader for the day, the member for Bellwoods, I would be very careful in putting any construction on what I said in answer to the question raised by the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson), except that he should always share optimism, as I always do. Certainly he should be optimistic about many things. However, I think the honourable member is well aware of the traditions in this Parliament whereby I would not be in a position to disclose what may or may not be in the budget, and he will have to be patient until eight o'clock on May 13.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, will the Premier tell us what he was talking about in his speech yesterday when he said on page 16, "First, we would ensure that the problems of the existing elderly, particularly single people, can be taken care of by adjusting income guarantees from GIS and through provincial programs such as Gains"? Is the Premier giving us a glimpse of his budget? Is he going to carry through with this

program, a program we believe in very strongly on this side of the House?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I am glad to know there is something the people on the other side of the House believe in strongly. I sometimes wonder about that.

I think that statement is quite clear. What I was trying to enunciate yesterday is the approach we are taking in the preliminary discussions with the government of Canada and with the other provincial governments. When it comes to the field of pensions, obviously government has a very direct responsibility for the less advantaged in our communities, and the Gains recipients and people of that nature, in my view, are a public responsibility.

If he reads my speech carefully he will see that I then went on to say that the voluntary or the private-sector pension plans should be sorted out, and then governments should determine just what route they should take. I was really just raising a caution flag yesterday which I am sure the honourable member would agree with: that to go the other way around and determine that there will be a very major national program without sorting out those two prerequisites would be the wrong route to go.

SAFETY OF OFFICE EQUIPMENT

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour with regard to the action, or lack thereof, by his ministry concerning the visual display terminals at old city hall, a matter which we raised a month or so ago.

Is the minister aware that yesterday the representative of the union refused to sign the inspection report because, after 30 to 100 pages of concerns and difficulties expressed by his ministry, there was no suggestion of any orders being issued to remedy the situation in that work place and there was no suggestion that his ministry should establish by statute a health and safety committee?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the meetings that have been held and the investigations that have been going on and of the fact that there was a meeting yesterday. The results of that meeting have not been brought to my attention as yet. Therefore, I am hearing for the first time of what went on yesterday, from the member.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, is the minister not outraged that his ministry would not even take the positive action of establishing—and he has the authority to make the recommendation—a

health and safety committee in a work place that obviously needs it? Is he not aware that the immediate action which was promised by the Minister of Health (Mr. Grossman) has not even been acted on because Dr. John Harkins, the doctor appointed under the Public Health Act, has not yet had any kind of contract arranged with him? Is he not concerned that this very serious matter has not been resolved, that in one month it is not any further along the way to solution either through his ministry or through the Ministry of Health?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, certainly I am very concerned that there has not been a resolution. I also want to say that my ministry is committed, and can substantiate that commitment in many ways, to the establishment of committees. We are doing—

Mr. Mackenzie: How many have you set up?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I think we have set up several and, as I say, those figures can be substantiated.

I would also remind the honourable member that there is an advisory committee looking at this matter, including representation from the civil service union, and that we hope to have its report very shortly.

10:30 a.m.

Mr. Speaker: The honourable leader—the member for Scarborough West, sorry.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: We are all leaders here, Mr. Speaker. It's the opposite of a dearth of talent.

Has the minister not been made aware of the reports from his ministry which would indicate that Dr. Taraschuk, who was supposed to go in and do the ministry's medical examination, did not talk to one of the women involved—not one—and has no inclination to go further?

As our deputy leader has said, the emergency proposal by the Minister of Health to have his doctor go in and report as quickly as possible has been held up in such a way that as of last night the minister had not even signed the contract with that doctor?

Has the minister not been made aware of the fact that ozone levels were found to be as high as can be registered on the machines that we are testing, and yet there has been no order put forward; that carbon dioxide levels were found to be well above the discomfort level and no orders have been taken; and that low frequency radiation was found, which has been discounted totally because there are no international standards?

Why has the minister not been apprised of this and when will he report back to us about this dangerous situation and the lack of concern shown by his ministry officials?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I do not agree with the statement about a lack of concern. The opposite is true. The meeting was held yesterday. I am scheduled to be briefed either today or Monday on the results of that meeting. I will be happy to get back to the members with a complete report.

Mr. Foulds: I might point out that concern is great but we require action in cases like this.

GAS PRICE INCREASES

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. Is the minister aware that the Consumers' Gas Co. has filed for another increase in rates starting October 1, which, if awarded, will give the company another \$83 million for its own purposes?

Does he know that, coupled with the agreed pass-through of excise taxes and wholesale gas costs, that increase will raise the average home heating costs in Toronto another \$174? That is a total hike of \$387 over the last year.

Does the minister not think it is about time he recognized his responsibilities as a consumer advocate in this province and had a representative protecting the interests of the consumers at the Ontario Energy Board hearings?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, the answer to the first part of the question is no, I am not personally aware of the application to the energy board. Let us cut through all that stuff and get down to the real issue here.

The real issue is that this government, through the Ministry of Energy, has set up the Ontario Energy Board, a public body interested only in the public interest and in the legitimate survival of businesses involved in that industry. There is a council there on behalf of the public representing the commission, the Ontario Energy Board. If that does not indicate a legitimate interest in consumers, then I do not know what the member is talking about.

In recognition of the fact that there is this public body to which the public may make representations, the member well knows that section 2 of the Consumer Protection Act places certain restrictions on the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations. We have talked about it in this House before.

Mr. Foulds: That does not preclude the minister from sending a representative to appear at these hearings, so let us not muddy the issue. Is the minister going to allow the kind of situation that took place at the last hearings of the OEB for a Consumers' Gas increase, where 20 witnesses and two lawyers for the gas company appeared and there was not one single representative of consumer interests?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: There may be some muddying of the water going on, but I would suggest it is the deputy leader of the third party who is muddying the water. He knows full well that the responsibility of the government is clearly recognized in the setting up of a public body to review rate increases that may be necessary from time to time.

Those hearings are open to the public. If the member is saying I should go out and round up people, or that the Minister of Energy (Mr. Welch) should, I am not quite sure what he is talking about. That is why that public body is there. It is open, people can appear before it and I have no problem saying that I am a representative of consumer interests and that consumer interests are being recognized by that public hearing.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, the minister surely must realize that the Ontario Energy Board is not infallible and that its members base their decisions on information which is presented to them by the highly paid staff of the energy corporations who are seeking an increase. The issue here is whether or not the consumers of Ontario can have the same well-qualified people making representations on their behalf and challenging the data that have been put forward to the energy board by the corporations seeking the increase.

The cost of energy today is such that the consumers need all the defence they are able to muster in order for them to make their payments, together with the other costs they are burdened with at this time.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I am interested that the member is suggesting not only that we set up a public body which has the capacity to review, digest and assimilate information provided to it and information that it creates itself to analyse material, but that it should go further and start doing other things.

I submit this would not be in the consumer interest because that would duplicate a very excellent facility that is in place. I have to tell my friend I think he is on the wrong wicket.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, it is absolutely preposterous that three weeks after Consumers' Gas Co. made an application for that tremendous increase, the minister who is supposed to protect consumers does not even know about it.

Does he not realize that at the energy board hearings, when no one is representing the consumer, there will be a lawyer cross-examining the 20 witnesses or so from the Consumers' Gas Co. and none from the other side? The consumer does not get a fair result and it is proved in the decisions.

Does the minister not realize that, apart from banks, public utilities such as Consumers' Gas Co. posted the highest profits of any group of companies in Canada, and that was before Consumers' Gas got the \$77 million for itself last year and the \$83 million it has applied for this year? Is he finally going to get in on this issue and protect the consumers or will natural gas continue to rise as fast as it does from the Premier and the Tory benches?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, through the existing facilities, which I have to say are more than adequate, the government will continue to supervise and evaluate increases as applications are made from time to time.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Mr. Breithaupt: Mr. Speaker, a question of the Provincial Secretary for Justice. Is the report correct in today's Toronto Star that the secretary will be addressing the Toronto consular corps on Monday on the subject of freedom of information and protection of privacy, and that the meeting will be closed to the press?

Hon. Mr. Sterling: Mr. Speaker, I was going to speak to that particular group. Unfortunately, that event has been cancelled by the people who were holding it. I am not aware whether it was to be open or closed. As far as I am concerned it can be open.

Mr. Breithaupt: Would the minister not think it appropriate to discuss this most important and particular subject with the members of this House here rather than with some other groups, so that members might know what the policies of this government are to be eventually on this most important subject?

Hon. Mr. Sterling: I think that is a very valid point and I wish I was able to speak more freely about our position because our position has not been reached at this time. It was some time in the past that I promised to speak to that group and had hoped that our position would be

solidified at this time. I would hope the cabinet would make a decision on the matter in the near future.

EDUCATION POLICY

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Premier. Does the Premier recall a lengthy debate that took place in this House in 1968 with the reorganization of all of the schools, school districts and boards across the province, where it was going to enhance the equality of educational opportunity and provide a focus for all communities in the province because of the restructuring of the educational system?

10:40 a.m.

In the light of those assurances given by himself as the Minister of Education, does the Premier now think it appropriate that the present Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) should sit idly by and watch people who are responsible for the delivery of education in northern Ontario tear the heart out of the community by closing down a high school to save \$120,000?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, as I understand the question there were perhaps three parts to it.

The first was, do I recall, and the answer to that is yes, I recall the rather heated discussions in this House in—I guess the member is quite right—1968, when as Minister of Education I learned that my then leader had determined we would move to the county school board system, a policy advocated by the former leader of the Liberal Party, who is absent this morning, in a lot of his material. This policy changed in 1968 when it became somewhat controversial.

Does the member want me to recall some more of the debate for him? His own party was somewhat ambivalent about supporting it or not supporting it because the NDP could not really decide whether the educational objectives of the reorganization were, shall we say, overwhelming to the extent that they could reconcile themselves to supporting that initiative because of the political downside that might be inherent in so doing.

The member asked me to recall the debate. Is there anything else he wants to know about the debate? I remember it very vividly. I happened to be in London, England, when my then leader made this statement in Paris, Ontario. It was a very heated debate, a very important debate; it

really was consistent with the policy of the Liberal Party of Ontario then.

The Minister of Education—this was another part of the question—does not sit idly by. I think it is important for the member to understand that under the legislation and the policies of this government, which some of his colleagues bring to our attention with great vigour when it suits them, there is a great deal of responsibility on the part of the duly elected trustees across this province.

That was inherent in the legislation; it happens to be part of the tradition of the educational system of this province going back some 100 years. That, too, was part of the legislation; it is part of the government policy.

I realize the very legitimate concern being expressed by the honourable member. I am not personally familiar with all of the facts. Certainly I will discuss it with the minister.

In some other parts of the province—not so much in my own area because we still have tremendous growth pressures—because of the reduction in the numbers of young people in the school system, some accommodation with respect to the physical location of school plant has to be assessed.

If the member wishes to communicate to me the particulars of his concern, if he has not done so, I will be more than prepared to discuss them with the Minister of Education.

Mr. Stokes: Does the Premier agree with the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier) and the member for Fort William (Mr. Hennessy) that no school in northern Ontario should close for a matter of \$120,000?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I apologize to the member. I try to keep track of most difficult situations. I am not familiar with the particulars of this situation. I do know that the board has followed—

Mr. Stokes: I detailed it and put in on your desk last week.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I understand that. I have not had a chance to assess it. My recollection is that there was a great deal of public discussion, that the local board—and the member can correct me if I am wrong—has followed the guidelines laid down by the ministry, and that the vote was fairly substantial in favour of the route the board is going.

He can correct me if I am wrong, but that is my information. I would be delighted to have his assessment of it, but I think that is the case. He is nodding his head. These are the people; they are his constituents. They are the people that

maybe he helped elect, for all I know, who have this very difficult responsibility.

Mr. J. A. Reed: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Premier recalls the commitment he made during his own campaign for the leadership of his party in 1971 when he said in Kapuskasing, "If I am elected to the leadership of the party I will see to it that small communities in Ontario are kept small and vital"? Perhaps the Premier will also recall the political consequences of allowing a school to close, thus cutting the heart out of a community.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, not only did I believe that then, I believe it now. The incident the honourable member is referring to happened many years ago. The school that was closed was located in the great community of Norval—some 200 yards west of the old Hollywood Hotel, where I understand the member does a great deal of his campaigning.

I believe most members would support this action. While it was a very good school and was providing a very good level of service, it was located about a quarter to a half mile from one of the Georgetown elementary schools which I believe is where they go now. This action was determined by the trustees of the then Halton County Board of Education, who were, no doubt, elected with the assistance of the member.

SUNDAY OPENING

Mr. Williams: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Solicitor General. The April 18 edition of the Toronto Sun newspaper contained advertisements from the following Metropolitan Toronto business concerns that they would be open for business on the following Sunday:

Fantastic Furniture Warehouse Ltd.; Stitches; Aquarium Services warehouse outlet; Hi-Fi Express; Audiotrend electronics centres; Hercules, a furniture and upholstery store; Radiation Engineering of Canada; Saunas Spas and Things; Stereo Village; Robbiren Furniture; Stuart's Furniture and Appliances; Manufacturers Carpet Outlet; Scandia Furniture; Carpet World; Michaels Furniture; Dave Gulet's Furniture Warehouse; the Wall Furniture People; Phil Givner Carpet; Medallion; Brothers Bedding; Air-Flex Systems; North York Appliances; Sleep Shoppe; and TV Liquidators.

Under the Retail Business Holidays Act it is unlawful to carry on business on Sunday, with very few and specific exceptions. Can the minister tell me what efforts are being made by the ministry to determine whether these busi-

ness establishments have been operating within or outside the law?

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, the member for Oriole has brought this to the attention of the Legislature, as has the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Robinson), who filed a petition, signed by a number of individuals in support of the relevant legislation, asking that these retail businesses remain closed.

There have been numerous advertisements in the newspapers and they have come to the attention of the individual local police forces in places where they are in contravention of the present legislation.

There is provision in the legislation whereby local municipalities can exempt certain areas of businesses which fall within certain guidelines with regard to tourism. However, lately there has been a rash of businesses which seem to be overstepping the present legislation. I have had discussions with the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry), who has instructed the crown attorneys to ask for the maximum fine in cases where these establishments have opened in contravention of the legislation.

At the time the legislation was passed it was with a view to show respect for certain religions and to provide people with a break in their regular work days. That legislation still stands and is still good legislation. The police forces have been instructed to lay charges where the legislation is contravened.

The maximum fine under that legislation, as set by previous legislators in this House, is \$10,000. I hope the crown attorneys will press for that maximum amount so that the smaller fines that have been levied to date will not become a licence for those establishments to open illegally.

Mr. Williams: Last year, 43 Metro businesses were fined, with first offenders usually paying \$50 and second offenders something between \$200 and \$300, and one Metro business concern pleaded guilty to one charge in consideration of having 299 other charges withdrawn.

What effort is the minister making in conjunction with the Attorney General to discourage the flouting of the laws by businesses who treat fines as a licence to do business in violation of the law, over and above requesting that the maximum fine be levied? If that is the sole initiative that is being taken, when is it going to be implemented?

10:50 a.m.

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Instructions have already gone out to crown attorneys on these situations. They have been requested to ask for the higher fines to prevent, just as the member for Oriole has said, the fines becoming a licence, although it is up to the individual judicial individual hearing the case to set the fine after the crown attorney requests the fine he or she thinks should follow the event.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, does the Solicitor General agree with his colleague, the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Mr. Wells), who has stated publicly that he will not enact any changes in the Retail Business Holidays Act at the provincial level unless he has the unanimous consent of all members of all three parties?

Hon. G. W. Taylor : I am not aware of my colleague's comments, Mr. Speaker.

SALES TAX ON TOURISM AND INDUSTRY

Mr. Eakins: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. Given the minister's response earlier this week regarding the sensitivity he shared with the province's tourism sector over the reimposition of the sales tax on accommodation, I would like to hear his views on the taxing of so-called luxury meals at a higher rate than normal provincial sales tax, namely, at 10 per cent.

Does the minister see any justification for taxing meals at 10 per cent when other items, such as a fur coat for instance, are taxed at only seven per cent, and if he does not see any justification for this, will he be making representations to the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) to deal with this inequity in his upcoming budget?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated to the honourable member opposite on the matter of the reimposition of the seven per cent room tax, I have also discussed this matter of taxation on meals with the Treasurer.

I would simply like to reiterate, as I said before in connection with the seven per cent tax, that the Treasurer is fully aware of the feelings of the tourism industry, and I am confident he will deal with the question in a very equitable and fair manner, as our Treasurer always does in everything else.

VIC TANNY'S CLOSINGS

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. I am sure the minister is aware that thousands of people have lost literally hundreds of thousands of dollars last month when Vic

Tanny's abruptly closed in Hamilton, Kitchener, Oakville and St. Catharines, and scores of people were thrown out of work.

Is he also aware that Vic Tanny's closed this month in London and Sarnia? In view of the fact that members were being solicited for Vic Tanny's right up to the time of closure, is the minister doing a thorough investigation of the questionable circumstances surrounding these closures, and what is he doing to ensure that the victims are going to get their money back?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, we are thoroughly investigating all aspects of the closures through the business practices division. I am sure the member can appreciate it is not a matter I would like to discuss in the House at this time. Those investigations are going on. As to the fate of any refund of fees paid for use of those establishments, I am afraid that matter will have to be considered as our investigation proceeds. I cannot give him a definitive answer on that.

Mr. Swart: I guess the minister also knows that Vic Tanny's is a franchise operation and that it gets tremendous revenue from the franchisees. For instance, the owner of Vic Tanny's Super Fitness here in Toronto told us that he paid over \$1 million for the franchise. I want to send the minister a copy of the membership agreement between Vic Tanny's and the individual members who enrol. Will he note that there is no mention of the local Vic Tanny's being a franchise operation in this agreement?

Because of the huge revenue received by Vic Tanny's and because there is no indication that Vic Tanny's Inc., or for that matter Vic Tanny's Holdings, are not parties to the agreement, and because Vic Tanny's is now proposing to pull its operation out of Ontario and go back to the United States, will the minister take immediate steps to hold Vic Tanny's Inc. responsible for compensating the victims?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: As I have said before, the particular Vic Tanny's operations the member has referred to are under investigation. I will be pleased to review the document he has.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact there has been a cloud over Vic Tanny's for some time in Hamilton, St. Catharines and other areas, probably for over a year; there have been a lot of questions asked and people have expressed concerns, is the minister satisfied that the business practices division of his own ministry has monitored that situation to his satisfaction? Could this situation have been avoided if this

ministry had taken some action earlier, perhaps when he was not the minister?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I would prefer not to get into any discussions about the operations of the Vic Tanny's franchises in this province. I am completely satisfied with the operations of our business practices division in that area.

LAKESPAN MARINE INC. SERVICES

Mr. Cureatz: I have a question to the Minister of Transportation and Communication.

Mr. Wrye: Sam for leader.

Mr. Cureatz: I am not going to resign, do not worry.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Cureatz: Has the Lakespan corporation that operates the ferry service out of Oshawa to Rochester and Oswego approached the minister for any further assistance in regard to its operation this spring and summer?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I guess my honourable colleague was not here when I made my statement at the opening of the House today. I know the member is very interested and concerned with regard to this operation.

The company did make approaches to the government for additional financial assistance, which was not forthcoming, and CN Marine and Lakespan announced the discontinuance of the service yesterday afternoon.

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Community and Social Services. The minister is aware that children's mental health is often shuffled between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Community and Social Services. In recent weeks, cases of children who have been inappropriately placed or not placed at all have come to the attention of the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

Last week in Windsor, the director of the only community residence equipped to deal with emotionally disturbed female adolescents told the Liberal health committee that he turns away 15 to 20 girls a year who are "... at risk of imminent danger, suicidal, capable of uncontrollable violence and dangerous to themselves or others." He also estimated that 20 girls ran away last year from his facility because it is not able to provide the supervision they need.

The director further stated that many children in Windsor are suffering from mental

illness that goes untreated because the facilities for follow-up are not available.

When will the minister take responsibility for the growing problem of children's mental illness? If he will not take that responsibility, why will he not turn it over to the Ministry of Health?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I have to inform the honourable member that the person who gave her that information admits to us that he was factually incorrect and that he regrets giving her the information. His name is Vossen. He says the numbers he gave the member—and this is not the first time she has raised it—

Ms. Copps: This is not the first time I have raised it.

Hon. Mr. Drea: It is not. He admits that the numbers he gave the member reflected "... his recollection of three or four years ago." They are not the current figures and he has not rejected 20 females of that description in the last year. Also, the number of runaways is not the number he gave the member. It is an open setting; eight were absent without leave last year.

11 a.m.

If that person were a government employee, I can assure the honourable member he would be disciplined for misleading her as nobody has ever been disciplined before. That person is not a government employee; so it is with regret that I cannot do anything about the fact that the member was monumentally misled.

Ms. Copps: I can point out to the minister that not only did Mr. Vossen make these comments but also we received presentations from parents of children in that situation. Whether there are eight AWOL or whether there are 10, 15 or 20 young girls who have not received the kind of care they should have received—

Mr. Speaker: May we have the supplementary question?

Ms. Copps: Eight AWOL is too much. The minister knows there is a problem, not only in Windsor but also across Ontario, of young people whose mental health needs are not being met. What is he going to do about it?

Hon. Mr. Drea: I have let the member off the hook; but now that she has started back, if she wants—

Mr. Bradley: No more Mr. Nice Guy, eh, Frank?

Hon. Mr. Drea: That's right: no more Mr. Nice Guy. One whole week it is just too much. If she wants no one to be AWOL from that type of

setting, we are going to have to introduce security, which is inappropriate. That is an open setting and one can wander away.

The member should not try to repeat that there were five, 10, 20 or any number of emotionally disturbed young females who were high-risk, both to themselves and to the community, who were turned away from that facility. If the member wants to get on the telephone and phone that gentleman, I will give her my credit card, because he really should apologize.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

Mr. Di Santo: Mr. Speaker, I have a point of personal privilege. I am reminded that the Minister of Community and Social Services said on April 16 he would report back to the House on Monday on a case of an appeal the ministry had done against a decision of the Social Assistance Review Board. Since that appeal subsequently has been withdrawn, will you advise whether the minister wants to report to the House now, two weeks later?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, it is not two weeks later. If the honourable member were around, it would be easy to give him a simple answer. I have looked diligently, and I cannot find any appeal that meets the description of the case he asks about. If he wants to provide additional details, I will seek out even further information. As of now, there is none. The member is wrong, just as he was wrong last week.

Mr. Di Santo: On the point of privilege, if you will allow me, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: No. I think you have made your point of privilege. If you want to ask a question, I will recognize you.

Mr. Di Santo: It is a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: No. You have already made your point of personal privilege. The member for Cornwall with a new question.

Mr. Riddell: What are you like in the boxing ring, Frank? Can you handle yourself?

Mr. Havrot: Sit down.

Mr. Riddell: The two of us should try it some time.

Ms. Copps: People are trying to get proper placement; it's a real big joke. It's the people of this province.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Samis: Mr. Speaker, I have a somewhat lighter and frothier question.

Ms. Copps: It's the people of this province.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Ms. Copps: Just like the district health councils. They really speak out too.

Mr. Samis: Mr. Speaker, I wish you could do something with her.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the member for Cornwall please resume his seat? I will not caution the member for Hamilton Centre any more.

Ms. Copps: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I have had enough. I have recognized the member for Cornwall. You have deliberately interrupted him three times.

BEER IN THE BALL PARK

Mr. Samis: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your support. I have a somewhat lighter and frothier question of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

Now that the good weather is upon us, and at least a million people every year in this city like to enjoy baseball at Prohibition Park, can the minister advise the House why he continues the stupid and partial tradition of his predecessors, and rejects the advice of Eber Rice, the former chairman of the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario, who said: "Ontario is too modern to not permit beer in the ball park at some point"?

Why does he reject this advice? Why does he continue this farce? Why is Ontario the only city in North America that does not allow this? Even the city of Vancouver, which has a minor baseball franchise, allows it. Why is Toronto kept in the middle ages, the dark ages, by his ministry?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, as is usual in this government, we are always open to new views, new thoughts and new representations from thoughtful, moderate people like the member for Cornwall. Let me assure him that his views and his representations on behalf of his community—I assume that is what they are—will be given very careful consideration by this government.

Mr. Samis: Since the minister thinks he is open to new ideas and new suggestions, will he get modern and new? Will he give some consideration to the idea of doing what they did in Winnipeg at their arena, namely, allowing the sale of lighter beer on an experimental basis, to

see whether he can trust the good citizens of Ontario to act like adults at a professional baseball game, as they do in every other major league ball park in North America?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I think we are seeing a very unique event in this House today. We are seeing a responsible member trying to find the middle ground. That is almost Conservative.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, perhaps the minister would be good enough to explain to this House why he will not change the law. What is his current reasoning?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, it will come as no surprise to the Leader of the Opposition that the community he lives in will, I am sure, have a variety of views on it. I trust and presume he has sampled all of them, particularly when the university is not open.

He knows the government has always had concerns about that fact. Are we really talking about the principle of extending alcoholic beverages at all professional sporting events, morning, noon, night, day, whatever it is? Are we concerned about the presence or absence of children at these events? Are we concerned that other communities that have introduced alcoholic beverages are now having second thoughts about it? I do not say that we are closed to further consideration of the issue. I am just saying that communities that have introduced it are having some second thoughts.

Surely the honourable member has an obligation on behalf of his community, as we do on behalf of the population of the province, to look at all sides of the issue.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, the Premier has a rather important statement that he can make just now, if the permission of the House could be gained. Then, if there are any questions, there would still be a few minutes of question period left.

Mr. Speaker: May we have the unanimous consent of the House to revert to statements?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: That is a decision for the House to make.

Hon. Mr. Wells: The time of the statement does not count on the question period.

Mr. Speaker: The clock has stopped. This will not be counted.

Agreed.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, the clock is still running, but I know what you mean.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

URBAN TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT CORP.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I know the Leader of the Opposition will particularly welcome this statement, as will the member for Wentworth North (Mr. Cunningham). I know the Leader of the Opposition will convey this information to his colleague immediately after the statement has been made, knowing of his long-term, enthusiastic interest in this subject.

I am very pleased to announce that, as of about seven minutes ago this morning in Detroit, Michigan, the Urban Transportation Development Corp. signed a contract with the South-eastern Michigan Transit Authority to supply a 4.6-kilometre intermediate capacity transit system for the city of Detroit.

[Applause]

11:10 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I must say I am encouraged that the one member of the Liberal Party who applauded—lightly, with some lack of enthusiasm but none the less applauded,—was the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney). It is a little bit disappointing. The other members of the Liberal Party are sitting there very glumly assessing this very important piece of information.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: They should learn; they should greet these things with enthusiasm.

The value of this contract is approximately \$110 million. It is expected that Detroit will direct the UTDC to begin work on the project in approximately three months. UTDC has full responsibility for all aspects of the design, management and construction of this project and for the supply and installation of all equipment, including 13 ICTS vehicles.

This agreement is an excellent example of the continuing co-operation between Ontario and our friends in the state of Michigan. I wish to interject and pay tribute to the governor of Michigan, who has been very supportive of this. I was a guest of his two months ago; it just happened to coincide with the playing of the Super Bowl in Pontiac, Michigan, and we had an opportunity to discuss this in some detail. I know that the governor of the state of Michigan assisted in the representations to Washington, because Washington had terminated all financial support for these projects throughout the United States but did make an exception for the

city of Detroit, and that is one of the reasons the project is proceeding.

I also wish to pay tribute to the Minister of Transportation and Communications, (Mr. Snow) who has suffered some modest criticisms from across the House with respect to the activities of this very important Canadian corporation.

Mr. Bradley: You didn't get up and announce Suncor this way.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Come on, Jimmy. Don't be such a poor loser; be magnanimous, be gracious.

Mr. Bradley: Why didn't you get up and announce the jet this way?

Mr. Speaker: Order. Just never mind the interjections, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I will totally ignore the interjections, Mr. Speaker, but I have to tell you that I am thoroughly enjoying them.

As a member of this government, I am proud to note that Detroit has contracted with UTDC for the ICTS, which has been developed and proven in this province as a result of the initiative of this government, without any support from that particular party.

As a Canadian, I am proud that this is yet another instance of the successful export of high-technology Canadian products to the international marketplace. I know the Leader of the Opposition will immediately phone the member for Wentworth North to convey this very good news to him, which member during the negotiations in Vancouver did his very best to see that it did not happen.

ORAL QUESTIONS

(concluded)

Mr. Speaker: A new question; the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I do want to express the regrets of the member for Wentworth North that he could not be here today.

Mr. Bradley: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: We have had an announcement that has been greeted with a good deal of enthusiasm in this House today. May I ask that you intervene with the Premier to ensure, when he wants to purchase another jet for himself and the cabinet, that he makes a similar announcement in the House with this good deal of fanfare?

Mr. Speaker: That is hardly a point of privilege, but again I assure all honourable members that I do not intervene with anybody except the honourable members in the House.

Mr. J. A. Reed: A great Suncor announcement.

Hon. Mr. Davis: It hurts, doesn't it, across the road?

Mr. Di Santo: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I cannot hear the honourable members.

Mr. Di Santo: I have a question for—

Mr. Speaker: No. The questions are over here. The member for Grey (Mr. McKessock) has the next new question.

An hon. member: Nice try, though.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry. I did not hear you. The member for Downsview (Mr. Di Santo) will please resume his seat. The question is with the member for Grey.

ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS

Mr. McKessock: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. Given that the banks are less than enthusiastic about the new Ontario farm adjustment assistance program, to say the least, and that it takes the local banks a day to process each application, will the minister consider dropping the existing regulations to qualify for the program and leaving it open to every farmer who has borrowed money thereby to use the ministry's short form application, which takes about five minutes to fill out?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: No, Mr. Speaker; and the premise on which the honourable member's question is based is totally wrong.

Mr. McKessock: In view of the fact that the tie-ups in the bank and the time spent by the farmer and his accountant to fill out these applications make the benefits of the program questionable, has the minister any other ideas that are better than mine to speed up the program to allow the farmers to get this money immediately?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I do not know to whom the member is speaking, but he is not talking to the farmers I have been talking to and hearing from in my correspondence. One of the most significant benefits of the program we have put into place, and some of his own members have told me this, is the detailed examination that is required to be made of each existing operation, looking at its 1981 actual results and then, based on an evaluation of those 1981 results, evaluating its 1982 plans.

Mr. McKessock: It's too slow.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: It is not too slow. It is going as quickly as it can while still doing a proper job. The member would not do individual farmers a favour with what he is proposing to do. If lenders in the past five to 10 years had been giving individual farm loan applications the kind of detailed examination that we are ensuring they are getting, a lot of farmers would not be in the bind they are in today.

SPADINA EXPRESSWAY

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of privilege to correct the record. I believe the Premier has, perhaps unfortunately, not fully represented his position with respect to the Spadina question.

Some hon. members: Order, order.

Mr. Peterson: It's a point of privilege.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Then put it at the end of question period.

Mr. Peterson: I referred in my question to a letter of March 4 from the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow) to Mr. Godfrey. He said in that letter that he wanted to exchange the Highway 400 lands for the Spadina lands to prevent the expressway from going ahead. He said in his letter, "The province will immediately initiate expropriation procedures to acquire the Spadina lands," failing a resolution of the question by way of negotiation.

The Premier in a letter to the mayor of Toronto on March 8 said this, "I understand that the Minister of Transportation and Communications has written to the chairman of Metropolitan Toronto reaffirming the province's understanding and commitment to the linkage referred to above." This presumably is a commitment to the course of action laid out by the Minister of Transportation and Communications. "This correspondence also sets in place an appropriate course of action to resolve and conclude the Spadina issue."

I respectfully submit that is a clear resolution of the question at hand on which the Premier has equivocated today. He may want to take this opportunity to make a clear statement on what he meant either 10 years and nine months ago, seven years ago or in the March 4 letter where he lays forth a position supporting that of the Minister of Transportation and Communications.

In checking the Instant Hansard today, he will see he is all over the map and makes no resolution of the question.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, with great respect, I will not labour this any further. I was in my own way very clear. I know what the Minister of Transportation and Communications has written. I know what I have communicated to the mayor of the city of Toronto. The member asked me what was going to happen, and I made it very clear that my preference was, still is and will continue to be, until we reach that point in the calendar, very simply to have an amicable settlement. The member must agree with that.

Mr. Peterson: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: With all respect, I think you have made your point.

Mr. Peterson: This is a very important point of clarification. He supported the minister's position, and then he said, "I have made no commitment to solving expropriation."

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will you please resume your seat?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: On a point of order: If he is not happy with the answer from the Premier he can ask for a late show.

Mr. Speaker: Exactly. Thank you.

The time for oral questions has expired. I sincerely hope the member for Downsview will be recognized the next time. However, I want to advise all honourable members that the time for question period had expired when the Leader of the Opposition stood on his point of privilege.

11:20 a.m.

ASSISTANCE TO SMALL BUSINESSES

Mr. Sweeney: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: On March 16, I raised a question with the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. Walker). His answer at that time was, "I will be pleased to get them"—that is, the information—"and report to the honourable member." It is now five weeks, and I still do not have an answer. May I have any direction from you as to how to deal with this situation?

Mr. Speaker: I am sure the minister will take note of that and give you a speedy answer.

VISITORS

Mr. Speaker: Before proceeding, I ask all members of the Legislature to join me in welcoming and recognizing in the west side of the Speaker's gallery a delegation from Egypt whose members are visiting Montreal, Kingston

and Toronto to see at first hand Canadian products, expertise and transit systems.

I want to take the time to recognize these visitors individually: Mr. Korayem, senior under-secretary, Ministry of Economic Co-operation, who is leading the mission; Mr. El-Gohary, deputy governor of Cairo; General Gaber, Ministry of Interior Affairs; Mr. Helmy, Ministry of Economic Co-operation; Mr. Khamis, Transportation Planning Authority; and Mr. El-Menchawi, counsellor, Egyptian embassy, Washington.

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, we certainly welcome the Egyptian delegation that is here today. I also wish to introduce to the House and ask members to join me in greeting a very important group of people who have arrived today from the People's Republic of China and who are in the east end of the Speaker's Gallery. We are honoured by the visit of these six top-level economists on a very important trade mission from the People's Republic of China.

They arrived on April 17. It is their intention to conduct seminars in Toronto, Ottawa and other parts of Canada. These seminars will provide participants with a much clearer understanding of the intricacies of trading with the People's Republic of China and should encourage Canadian businessmen to be more venture-some in pursuing Canada-China trade.

The leader of the delegation is Mr. Xu Dixin, member of the standing committee of the National People's Congress, vice-president of the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce and president of Swatow University.

I will introduce the other members of the delegation. It may be that they cannot understand my pronunciation. Mr. Wu Baosan, member of the national committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference; Mr. Tao Dayong, member of the national committee and dean and professor of economics at Peking Normal University; Mr. Liu Guoguang, deputy director of the Institute of Economics and professor of economics at Peking University; Mr. Gu Nianliang, director of the Centre for Hong Kong and Macau Economic Studies at the Institute of Economics; Mr. Wu Jiaying, who is a research fellow, Research Institute of International Trade, Ministry of Foreign Trade, People's Republic of China.

We welcome both delegations very strongly for their very important efforts as we continue to recognize the world-class place that Ontario has in the trade of this world.

VISIT OF PREMIER OF FRANCE

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, perhaps it should also be recorded, although it will not be possible for them to visit the House of course, that another very important group will be visiting this province today, including the Premier of France, the Honourable Pierre Mauroy. Quite a large delegation will be arriving here at 5 o'clock, and there will be a state dinner for him tonight. He will be staying until tomorrow, visiting the Ontario Science Centre, talking with businessmen and leaving around noon tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker: It is a pleasure to extend the greetings of all members to all the visiting delegations.

MOTIONS

ESTIMATES

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that, notwithstanding any previous orders of the House, the estimates as they are tabled be referred to the standing committees as indicated in the estimates statement made earlier today.

Motion agreed to.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Wells moved, notwithstanding any standing orders of the House, that the ballot item of the member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Charlton) be deferred for consideration until next Thursday, April 29, and that the scheduling according to the order of precedence be revised accordingly.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

FRANCHISES ACT

Mr. Philip moved, seconded by Mr. Swart, first reading of Bill 88, An Act to regulate Trading in Franchises.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, I recognize that it is unusual for a private member to introduce a bill as comprehensive and as extensive as this; however, since the Grange report was introduced more than 10 years ago and this government has taken no action, it is quite appropriate, particularly in the light of some of the revelations by my colleague the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) in the House today.

This bill provides a comprehensive scheme

for the regulation by the Ontario Securities Commission of trading in franchises.

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE PAPER

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, before the orders of the day, I would like to table the answer to question 69 standing on the Notice Paper (see appendix, page 1142).

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THIRD READINGS

The following bills were given third reading on motion:

Bill 10, An Act to amend the Municipal Elections Act;

Bill 175, An Act to amend the McMichael Canadian Collection Act.

11:30 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I might just indicate that we are holding the 33rd and 35th orders, Bills Pr3 and Pr7, from the list.

CITY OF HAMILTON ACT

Mr. Wildman moved, on behalf of Mr. Charlton, second reading of Bill Pr5, An Act respecting the City of Hamilton.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

373800 ONTARIO LIMITED ACT

Mr. Williams moved second reading of Bill Pr11, An Act respecting 373800 Ontario Limited.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Newman: Just out of curiosity, why do we have to use numbers for corporations? Why do we not have names in there so the individual reading the bill would understand who was involved, instead of having to research a number?

Mr. Speaker: Does the member for Oriole want to respond to that or do you want me to respond? It is the name of the company. That is the way the company is registered.

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: It is indeed. I thought I would enlighten the member.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

CITY OF BARRIE ACT

Mr. McLean moved second reading of Bill

Pr12, An Act respecting the City of Barrie.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

JOHN F. MCLENNAN (BLOOR) LIMITED ACT

Mr. J. M. Johnson moved, on behalf of Mr. Kennedy, second reading of Bill Pr15, An Act to revive John F. McLennan (Bloor) Limited.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

CITY OF BRANTFORD ACT

Mr. Robinson moved, on behalf of Mr. Gillies, second reading of Bill Pr16, An Act respecting the City of Brantford.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

MINISTRY OF CITIZENSHIP AND CULTURE ACT (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 36, An Act to establish the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture.

Mr. Speaker: I am doubly pleased to recognize the member for Downsview.

Mr. Di Santo: Mr. Speaker, I am delighted you are pleased to recognize me. When we adjourned the debate yesterday, I was explaining further the reasons the New Democratic Party opposes Bill 36, An Act to establish the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture.

I was mentioning the report of the task force on equal opportunity that was commissioned by the Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism and Citizenship in February 1982. The results are known and are rather shocking. Of the 877 positions to which appointments had been made by the Ontario government for 84 boards, councils and commissions, 77.2 per cent were held by people of British origin, 5.1 per cent by people of French background and 17.7 per cent by people who fell under the "others" category.

As I said yesterday, there were interesting remarks by many parties on the fact that the task force, made up of members of the council on multiculturalism, which is a tame organization, totally subservient to the Tory government in Ontario, made use of the term "others"; we usually use the expression "ethnic." I must say the percentage of 17.7 per cent is very low in relation to the percentage of the ethnic popula-

tion within the province and particularly in the city of Toronto.

Yesterday, I said in a jocular way that we did not know if the 155 appointed under the category of "others" included the members of the council on multiculturalism because, in that case, the percentage goes even lower, from 17.7 to 10.3 per cent. However, I did some research and I now know the members of the council on multiculturalism have not been counted among the 155 members appointed.

This brings me to the point: If this ministry is to have any value at all, will the minister be able to change this regrettable situation? Will the Minister of Citizenship and Culture be able to persuade the Premier (Mr. Davis) and the cabinet to include one of the "others" among the eight members of the board of directors of that mighty bastion of the Tory establishment, the board of directors of Ontario Hydro.

I know the minister is open-minded and is open to suggestions, but will he ever be able to convince the Premier that in this province the policy of multiculturalism should not be a type of tokenism as it is now. We should be able to accommodate people in all walks of life, from every ethnic background, in positions where they can both represent their groups and "participate fully"—as the bill says under section 4—in the life of Ontario.

11:40 a.m.

Yesterday I documented the failure of the previous ministers in this area. I have been and still am insistent that TVOntario become a true instrument for the promotion of multiculturalism in Ontario. If we look at what it has done vis-à-vis the question of multiculturalism, we see regrettable results.

I asked, in question number 375 on the Order Paper of November 27, 1980, if the minister could tell us how many programs had been devoted to "multiculturalism" and what were the future program plans of the government. Since 1975, only 124 out of all the programs of TVOntario dealt with multiculturalism and then only in a cursory way. They totalled 69 hours of production programming plus three hours of acquired programs. That is pretty dismal. The multicultural programs produced and acquired since April 1979 amount to only 49. I do not think anyone can convince me that this is a serious approach towards a problem we think is very important in the life of the citizens of the province.

I asked a further question of the Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Mr. McCaffrey) and I

do not blame him for the answer he gave. I realize he has been in office for only a short time and I am hopeful that he will be able to change the situation. I asked him whether he could tell us if they contemplate any new programs to be devoted to multiculturalism, and if any other languages can be used in TVOntario apart from English and French, the latter being limited mostly to Sunday programming.

The minister told me that it was too early to tell, because "TVOntario is an agency of the government. They have not set up their schedule yet. We do not know." The excuse the former minister of Culture and Recreation (Mr. Baetz) used to give us was, "We cannot force TVOntario to do things they do not want to do."

I now urge the minister to give policy directions for TVOntario to improve their programming. I would like to see a station that would serve the interests of all the citizens of Ontario. I feel the minister will take note of my words because he is a sensible and open-minded man. I hope he will be able to do what is required to change the course of action of the government; until now this has been a disappointing failure.

Just a very brief note on the use of other languages: As I said yesterday, there is now an uproar among the most reactionary elements in our society over the introduction of third language programs in the Toronto Board of Education, a fact that will not change by one iota the instruction situation in our schools.

As I said yesterday, programs of third languages have already been introduced by the separate school board but there is an approach now being made which is helped by the most reactionary elements in our society, in the media, the newspapers, radio and television.

I think it is very important that the government give consideration to the use of other languages. There is nothing wrong with TVOntario giving some hours to programs in other languages to communities that are part of this province. The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission already recognizes that and there are several stations broadcasting programs in other languages.

That is not a subversion of the present order. It is not an attempt to destroy the structure of our society, it is only an attempt to accommodate groups which otherwise cannot be accommodated because they have some particular requirement and some shortcomings in terms of language, culture and understanding this society. By giving them those instruments, we provide them with the means of better under-

standing our society and becoming better citizens, which is the purpose of the bill we are discussing.

I would invite the minister to go back to the report of which my colleague the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) is very proud. On many occasions in this House, he has mentioned the report of the select committee on economic and cultural nationalism, a committee on which members on the other side of the House also sat as well as some cabinet ministers.

I want to put the recommendation of the select committee on the record because I know the minister will consider it very carefully.

"The committee accordingly recommends that at an early date"—this was in 1974—"a select committee on cultural affairs be struck to review and propose law and policy respecting cultural development and distinctiveness in Ontario and Canada having special regard to:

"The role and impact of the audio-visual and print media in shaping cultural attitudes and providing economic support to cultural activity and development in Canada and Ontario;

"The implications of foreign, private and public control of the cultural distribution systems for books, films, recordings, live performance bookings and other cultural property;

"The quality and quantity of Canadian educational materials in both printed and audio-visual form;

"Encouraging the expression of desired cultural values in architecture, urban planning and industrial design;

"The fostering of French-English bilingualism in Canada;

"Support for multiculturalism in native culture in Ontario;

"Canadian participation in the international cultural process and trends."

I would like to conclude my remarks with that recommendation of the report of the select committee on economic and cultural nationalism. If the minister accepts that recommendation, I think he will have in front of him a very meaningful agenda for the next few years, which will make him the most successful Minister of Citizenship and Culture in Ontario.

Unfortunately, because of the past record of the government, we are forced to vote against Bill 36.

Mr. Bradley: I would like to make a brief contribution to this debate establishing this ministry, with the thrust on the direction of funding of certain programs that could take place, now that this ministry is in place and

there is an emphasis on the cultural end of things in Ontario.

11:50 a.m.

The minister is aware that the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) has removed or drastically reduced funding for noncredit courses in continuing education at the secondary school level. The minister would know through representations he has received from people across the province that this has adversely affected, and might result in the complete removal of, certain popular and useful programs that have been started by various folk art councils across the province.

I think this ministry, and the emphasis on the cultural aspect of Ontario, will allow the minister the opportunity to provide the kind of funding that will be absent as a result of the action taken by the Minister of Education. I recognize that he has been in conversation with the Minister of Education on this matter and is aware of the problem, and I hope that through the establishment of this ministry he will recognize the importance of these programs; we are talking about the dance programs, the band programs, the choir programs of the various ethnic groups in some communities in this province. I hope he will provide this funding which will now be absent.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the fact that you have allowed me to deal with what is a side issue to this ministry, and I do not intend to take up the time of the House; but I would ask for a commitment from the minister that he give serious consideration to accepting the responsibility which was recently abdicated by the Minister of Education in funding of these programs.

Mr. Grande: Mr. Speaker, my remarks are going to be very brief, but as the critic for the former Ministry of Culture and Recreation, somewhere between 1979 and 1981, I feel I should stand up at this time and put some ideas forward to the new Minister of Citizenship and Culture.

I will not repeat the reasons that have been put forward by the member for Downsview (Mr. Di Santo) as to why this party is going to oppose this bill, but the fact is—and it has to be put on the record many times—that the Ministry of Culture and Recreation, ever since 1974 when it was established, did not do the job it ought to have done, given the expectations it created in 1974 and those the Premier of this province

created, for all the people of this province, for the cultures of all the people of this province.

My understanding—and I guess the member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Shymko) is also schooled in this particular area—is that the former Ministry of Culture and Recreation was basically a response to federal initiatives that had taken place before that. I am not going to go into any history, but it is understandable why that ministry was established in Ontario in 1974.

However, that ministry did not accomplish those things it was established to do, and now we find there is a further breaking up, a further disintegration if you like, of those particular goals, of those particular objectives of the former Ministry of Culture and Recreation.

Perhaps one may bring forth the argument, which I would understand, that since the Ministry of Culture and Citizenship is a more specific ministry, we will be able to do a lot more in those areas that deal with culture in its many aspects, and with citizenship. I read the objectives, or the functions, of the ministry as set out in Bill 36. Who could question that those four platitudes, motherhood issues, are very good principles upon which the ministry should be established?

However, I recall as well that the Ministry of Culture and Recreation had pretty much those same principles, and very few of them were accomplished. Very little was accomplished. So in what kind of basic good faith—maybe those are not the right words—can the new minister say to me today, at the end of this debate or at any other time, that we will proceed with some of those things we said, back in 1974, we were going to do and have not done? Let me name some of those things.

In 1974, 1975 and 1976, one of the things being discussed in estimates for ever and a day was the establishment of a cultural policy. Where is it? Every time I asked the then Minister of Culture and Recreation, who is here right now, he said, “We are in the process of getting a cultural policy together.” I hear and read of the advances that have been made in Quebec, which at least produced a task force report on what the elements of a cultural policy ought to be. At least there was public debate on what a cultural policy ought to be.

As far as Ontario is concerned, we are in the process of putting together a cultural policy. When does the process end? Will the government ever come forward with proposals for a cultural policy? I do not mean a specific cultural policy, such as a policy for museums or for the visual arts. I am talking about a comprehensive

cultural policy with some vision of the culture this particular government would like to develop or encourage in Ontario.

For a long time, we have been talking about the book publishing industry. When I raised this question in the estimates the biggest program this government could come forward with was the Half-Back program to help sell books by Canadian authors. That particular program is not worth even an ounce in terms of the kind of work that needs to be done, and the kind of thinking that needs to be done to develop the book publishing industry in Canada, in Ontario specifically, so that advertising for our books and the penetration of the market by our books will take place, and Canadian authors are encouraged and known so their books will sell.

This particular ministry is content to have 95 per cent penetration into Canada by the American market, so most of our libraries in Ontario, whether school libraries or public libraries, are stocked with books produced in the United States for an American clientele. In other words, in very few books do we see actual Canadian content. The ministry ought to give some kind of direction to the book publishing industry and, at the same time, make sure the book publishing industry is given financial encouragement to grow.

I do not want to isolate the book publishing industry. We can also talk about the film industry and, thank you very much, it is doing well right now, no thanks to this particular government but thanks to some of the programs the federal government has involved itself in.

I will not talk about the visual and performing arts in this province. The support for these institutions has been less than one would have thought back in 1974 when the Ministry of Culture and Recreation was established.

12 noon

Let me go into the other area, which my friend the member for Downsview talked about, and that is the area of multiculturalism.

I take a somewhat personal view of this. Not to toot my own horn, but I have done some work in this area. To think that this government can say we have a multiculturalism policy in place and yet at the same time, when questions are raised about the principles on which a multicultural society is built, those principles now being debated at the Toronto Board of Education, the Minister of Education can take the view—at least I hope she was quoted correctly in the Toronto Sun when she said:

“It is unfortunate that this particular thing is

being discussed at the Toronto Board of Education. It is worrisome to me that the heritage language program should be taught during the school day."

Either we believe in a multicultural society or we do not. It is not a matter of saying that we believe in a multicultural society provided we keep it out of our way, provided it does not in any way, shape or form affect our institutions in this province, because as soon as our institutions are affected that is going too far.

If the new minister begins where the former Minister of Culture and Recreation left off in his ideas about a multicultural society, or if he begins where the Provincial Secretary for Social Development (Mrs. Birch), who is also in her seat, left off with respect to the principle of a multicultural society, I am afraid he is going to be swimming into an area from which he will not find a way out.

Basically what he has to do is take that area, begin with some principles and develop some programs that are meaningful to Ontario today. As far as the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. Baetz) and the Provincial Secretary for Social Development are concerned, they pretty well have to change their way of thinking, or the lack of it.

This is not a new area any more; we have been at it now for the past 10 to 12 years. Those in Ontario to whom some people may refer as the 35 to 40 per cent of the people who are here in Ontario because they want to become good citizens of Ontario—I mean that in the broadest possible terms—want to feel that their feelings and their contributions are observed and taken into account; and up to this time I am afraid the government has not done that.

Section 4 says, "It is the function of the ministry to encourage full, equal and responsible citizenship among residents of Ontario" and "to stress the full participation of all Ontarians as equal members of the community." The only way this can be encouraged is when the government recognizes the needs of immigrants when they enter this province, and provides the funding for the classes in English as a second language which they require in order to learn how to participate fully in Canadian society.

The fact remains that the Minister of Education, with the help of federal friends, has been cutting into the program for English as a second language. Such programs are pretty well nonexistent in the community colleges now because the Ministry of Colleges and Universities has cut the funding.

The Deputy Speaker: I would like to bring to the honourable member's attention that I have given him great latitude. I hope he will be brief, as he indicated at the opening of his remarks some 15 minutes ago.

Mr. Grande: I did indicate my remarks were going to be brief. However, I find it difficult once I get into this area.

I will say to the minister, we are voting against this bill basically because we do not think a new ministry would be required if the Ministry of Culture and Recreation had done the job for which it was structured. We do not need a change of ministries; we need action. That is what this province needs right now.

Mr. Eakins: Mr. Speaker, I will be very brief. I am here to support the minister in Bill 41, An Act to establish the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, which has a very close involvement with one sector of the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture and that is with regard to Wintario projects.

I am subject to correction but I understand that although the minister will be responsible for the lotteries under the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, the projects which will be funded will come under the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture. I am one of the strongest supporters in this House of the Wintario projects undertaken in many of the smaller communities of this province.

We often hear criticism of the way Wintario grants operate but I want to ask the minister to make sure he lends strong support to the form many of the projects have taken, particularly in the smaller communities where, without Wintario support, such focal points as community centres or refurbished halls or buildings would not exist.

I feel one of the minister's priorities under this new ministry should be to make sure that Wintario support is not just something that is easily available in the larger urban areas where funding is more easily obtainable. We are now beginning to see cultural facilities in the smaller communities, many of which have little community centres because of the encouragement they have received through Wintario funding.

This means they are not using taxpayers' dollars but lottery funds to which the citizens contribute of their own free will. I hope it will be one of the ministry's priorities to make sure that all sectors of this province, the small ones in particular, receive their fair share of support.

I understand the province will still be divided into something like 18 tourism jurisdictions and

that the amount of capital funding available is something like \$30 million or \$40 million.

12:10 p.m.

When one divides that among 18 jurisdictions, one arrives at about \$1.5 million. Some of the jurisdictions are large and therefore it is not helping as many projects as it might have done. I hope the ministry will review the capital funding for these projects to make sure there is sufficient funding to do the job across this province.

Many small communities in the counties of Victoria and Haliburton now have their own little focal points through Ontario's support, such as the dressing up of an Orange Hall that has been there for years, or perhaps another small hall. It might be the building of a new community centre. Even a few thousand dollars has been a great help in providing a focal point so they do not have to drive to the next town or city to enjoy those facilities. It has meant a great deal to them and I hope they will continue to receive their fair share.

I hope everything possible will be done to ensure that all parts of Ontario have equal opportunity in regard to TVOntario, which I believe comes under this ministry. The county of Haliburton wants this facility very much and I am sure the minister is going to be hearing about it in the future. Now that TVOntario is in Muskoka, Haliburton is right next door and wants it just as much. We do not have the funding in Haliburton that they have in Muskoka but we are going to be coming to see the minister to make sure we get TVOntario in Haliburton county.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak briefly in support of my colleague the member for Downsview in urging opposition to the bill as it stands at present. There are sufficient defects in the bill to have prevented us from putting a specific, reasoned amendment in regard to one objection to the bill, because there are many objections to the bill.

I do not understand what the process is within the government as to how it reallocates responsibilities among different ministries and decides to create new ministries or ministries with different names and functions, often coupled with a cabinet shuffle.

This bill has every earmark of a lack of thorough understanding as to what the government was doing in the creation of this ministry. Had there been any thoughtful presentation of the reasons for this reallocation of responsibilities, it might well have been justified. The

absence of that kind of consideration and public information about the reasons for the reallocation among these three ministries causes me sufficient concern to want to speak briefly about two or three matters.

The first matter I want to deal with is what my colleagues the members for Downsview and Oakwood have spoken about. Why is it the government always and forever shies away from any statutory reference to multiculturalism? In the maze of words it uses to try to describe its policies, I do not understand why it will not now use the word which discloses in a synoptic way what we have been trying to say about the nature of Ontario society.

I do not need to elaborate on it. My colleagues have dealt with it at some length. My only comment is I find it passing strange and a serious omission. There is a very real question as to the commitment of the government to multiculturalism when one reads these words as one of the objectives of the ministry:

"Recognizing the pluralistic nature of Ontario society to stress the full participation of all Ontarians as equal members of the community, encouraging the sharing of cultural heritage while affirming those elements held in common by all residents."

Why the government would not have been prepared to say in the bill that the society we have is a multicultural society, I will never understand. It will lead to endless debate and discussion. It is because the government has never had a clearly defined and understandable content for its claim that it supports a multicultural society. Indeed, they equivocate—if I can use that dreadful term—from time to time about what it means.

There is no consensus in the government. There has never been any consensus in the existing Ministry of Culture and Recreation, which this one will replace. There has never been any clear indication among the government members as to exactly what they mean when they speak about a multicultural society.

I think the omission from the bill of the term, which has a significant meaning to the very people in the community that it is attempting to address in this bill, leads me to believe that the government has less than the kind of commitment which is required to make this society in Ontario flourish and develop in the most profound and basic ways that we all, on this side of the House at least, wish would take place.

The second matter that leads me to have a serious reservation about the thought which

went into the consideration of the establishment of this ministry is when I read the first two objectives of the ministry. It states, "It is the function of the ministry to encourage full, equal and responsible citizenship among the residents of Ontario," and I read the further objective a few moments ago, about the full participation of all Ontarians as equal members of the community.

I cannot understand why in those circumstances I do not find at the very outset of the creation of this ministry, listed in the schedule of statutes for which this minister will be responsible, the Human Rights Code which we passed quite recently. I cannot conceive of a government that creates a Ministry of Citizenship and Culture and that has passed after long debate and long discussion by this assembly a new Human Rights Code, not automatically thinking of it as being a bill which should go to the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture and be removed from the traditional role it has played in the Ministry of Labour.

That may have had some historic reasons in the beginning but no longer has any historic reasons, bearing in mind the creation of this ministry, with its emphasis on equality in the objectives which it states in the bill. I emphasize that very briefly by simply referring to the second recital in the preamble to the Ontario Human Rights Code:

"Whereas it is public policy in Ontario to recognize the dignity and worth of every person and to provide for equal rights and opportunities without discrimination that is contrary to law and having as its aim the creation of a climate of understanding and mutual respect for the dignity and worth of each person so that each person feels a part of the community and able to contribute fully to the development and wellbeing of the community and the province."

I can think of no words which do not say in a different way exactly what the major objectives of this ministry are stated by the ministry to be. I cannot believe for one single moment that the government or those who make these kinds of decisions have thought with any care and attention about the importance of the Ontario Human Rights Code.

If ever there was a statute which deserved to be administered by a new ministry which is put before us as a Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, it is the statute that we recently spent all of the time on and all of the lengthy discussions on, and with which we had all of the difficulties that we encountered dealing with

human rights in Ontario. That is a second reason why I support my colleague the member for Downsview (Mr. Di Santo) in urging opposition to the bill, because it has not been thought through.

The third reason, of course, is the matter to which my friend the member for Victoria-Haliburton (Mr. Eakins) has just referred, and that is the inadequacy of the consideration given to the questions with respect to the Wintario operations in the province.

12:20 p.m.

Let me say to the minister that my comments about the Wintario grants have nothing to do with those people who try, day in and day out, to make the system work; they try their very best. But we all know that under the previous minister, under the Ministry of Culture and Recreation, we went for a long period of time when nobody knew what the guidelines were. If one did hear of a guideline and immediately filed an application, one found that the particular guideline was under consideration or that it had stopped the day before yesterday and was being reconsidered in a different framework. That was an immense problem.

Some days after the ministry was established—and I am going to read this into the record, because it must be read into the record—there was the disastrous memorandum by which the two ministers, in their particular phraseology, jointly tried to assure me that between the two ministries the system was going to work even better than it had worked in the past.

I think we all received this memorandum. It is addressed to all of the members of the 32nd Parliament of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It is from the Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Mr. McCaffrey) and the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. Baetz). The subject is the administration of the Wintario grants programs. It says:

"Recent changes in ministerial responsibility have stimulated questions about the operation of Wintario grants programs. We would like to assure the honourable members that municipalities, community groups and provincial organizations will continue to be served as they have been in the past. It is business as usual."

If I may interject, in parenthesis, that in itself is ominous.

"The proceeds of the Wintario lottery are dedicated to the support of activities and facilities involving physical fitness, sports, recreation and culture in its broadest sense. Municipalities and community groups applying for Wintario

grants will continue to be served by a so-called one-window system”—and the term “so-called” is in the memorandum; I did not insert it—“through the community program offices in the province.

“These offices, operated by the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, will be staffed by MTR consultants involved with sports, fitness and recreation and MCC consultants involved in citizenship and culture. These consultants have a single mandate: to serve the clients in the communities of the province.

“The responsibility in the fiscal year 1982-83 for financial control and administration of lottery proceeds allocated by this assembly for all capital projects has been assigned to the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture. It will also deal with proposals or questions regarding projects involving multiculturalism and citizenship, native communities, community information, arts, libraries, museums and heritage conservation.

“If there are issues or requests for information concerning projects of a sports, fitness or recreation nature, they should be addressed to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation.”

On receipt of that, I was prompted to write a letter to the ministers jointly which expressed my view about this strange relationship between these two ministries with respect to Wintario. My letter was dated March 30 and was addressed to the Minister of Citizenship and Culture and the Minister of Tourism and Recreation.

“Dear Mr. Ministers:

“Thank you very much for the administration of the Wintario grants program memorandum. You have certainly understated the problem when you refer to the questions stimulated by the changes in ministerial responsibilities. Your memorandum should add to, if not create, a new branch of bureaucratic confusion.

“It has been extremely difficult up to now to deal with Wintario applications because of the constant change in guidelines. Now, of course, it would be an understatement as well to say that the problems will be twice compounded.

“Nevertheless, with unemployment at the level it is, I am sure you will be doing your best through this process of administration to increase employment opportunities. It will be similar to my problem in solving Rubik’s cubes.

“With my best regards for the impossible task which you have apportioned between you.

“Yours sincerely.”

That expresses the view I have and the view many people have about the lack of detailed consideration that was given to the establish-

ment of this ministry and its counterpart. For those three reasons I rise to support the position of my colleague the member for Downsview with respect to this bill. The bill should not be passed at this time.

ROYAL ASSENT

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): I beg to inform the House that in the name of Her Majesty the Queen, the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor has been pleased to assent to certain bills in his chambers.

Assistant Clerk: The following are the titles of the bills to which His Honour has assented:

Bill 10, An Act to amend the Municipal Elections Act;

Bill 175, An Act to amend the McMichael Canadian Collection Act;

Bill Pr5, An Act respecting the City of Hamilton;

Bill Pr11, An Act respecting 373800 Ontario Limited;

Bill Pr12, An Act respecting the City of Barrie;

Bill Pr15, An Act to revive John F. McLennan (Bloor) Limited;

Bill Pr16, An Act respecting the City of Brantford.

MINISTRY OF CITIZENSHIP AND CULTURE ACT (concluded)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 36, An Act to establish the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: Mr. Speaker, I want to try to touch on most of the points that have been made in the discussion about the establishment of this new ministry.

The first speaker, who unfortunately could not be here today, was the official Liberal critic for the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, the member for Quinte (Mr. O’Neil). In the few minutes that were available to him the other night, he made one point I wanted to speak to, because in the last few days other members have made reference to it, most recently the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston), in the form of a note to me and a suggestion by him.

It deals with the fact that the bill before us does not say there would be an annual report. I want members to know that we would be happy to accept an amendment to that effect. I do not know the mechanics of how it works, but we did decide we would be having an annual report,

notwithstanding the fact that it is not in the bill. We can work out the mechanics of how such an amendment is put forward. That recommendation was first touched on publicly in here by the member for Quinte.

The next speaker, happily, was my official critic for the New Democratic Party, the member for Downsview (Mr. Di Santo), who spoke at some length yesterday and today and made a number of points I would like to talk to.

He started out by reading a statement by the Premier (Mr. Davis), dated 1974, when the Ministry of Culture and Recreation was established, and went on to elaborate his own thinking on that, that the concept behind a Ministry of Culture and Recreation was an intelligent concept, and that it was a good fit. I do not disagree with any of those observations. It was a good fit.

I do think, however, that the new Ministry of Citizenship and Culture we are talking about now is an excellent fit itself. Since we have seen, over the last number of years, how the cultural and the recreational communities, at the municipal level for sure, have worked well together, I have every reason to think we can now, with this new bill, this new ministry, and this new name, give some new focus to what the ministry, going right back to 1974, is all about.

It is a renewed chance to go back to some very basic principles, obviously not on the recreational side, but to the extent that I had always believed there was a closer fit possible between the arts and the citizenship, or cultural and multicultural, side.

It strikes me as a layman that if we accept the fact that the arts is one medium for people from a variety of backgrounds to share equally—to some extent sports may be too, but the arts certainly is; I have been taught that, and I believe it to be the case—this gives us an opportunity to get those two halves of the ministry, with our support, working more closely together.

More can be done in that area. I do not quarrel with the original bill, the original ministry; far from it. It was an excellent idea, but this citizenship and culture fit provides us all with some new and important opportunities.

12:30 p.m.

If I may, I want to say a word or two about the ministry staff. Any time a new minister goes into a new assignment, he immediately has the opportunity to learn as much as he can as quickly as he can from the really good and devoted people who run the ministry all the

time. As members know, they work very hard. This was particularly true in this instance because of the split.

There is no question that there were three ministries involved and, most particularly, the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation and my own Ministry of Citizenship and Culture. There was a very strong desire to see that split brought about as quickly and as equitably and as effectively as possible. To that extent, people were really doing double duty as well as trying to bring the new guy up to date and teach him about some of the things that happen within the ministry.

I have been told by people who have been around government circles for a long time that we would have difficulty finding a better example of where ministries were realigned with so few problems. There was very little fuss. Things worked extraordinarily well.

I do not want to break my order of comments here, but the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick), in closing, read our memo and his response to the memo; I enjoyed it when I first heard it and I enjoyed it again today. I do think that our desire from day one was to make it clear that it was business as usual. We were really speaking there not only to members of the Legislature but also, more particularly, to the client groups in the real world who had some concerns about the fact of what two ministries means now. They wondered how to go about applying for a Wintario grant. We assured them they would carry on just as they had done the week before.

I myself am not knowledgeable enough about the field operation yet to say that I am totally on top of it, but I am confident that the people in the ministry are. I am not, but I am very conscious that there are people out in the province today, employed by either my ministry or the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, who could still use some guidance, direction and clarification as to what is happening back in head office, so to speak. I am very aware of that. That is a priority concern of ours.

I had my first opportunity, along with the deputy—although he had met them before—to meet with our field people two or three Fridays ago. We have had ongoing conversations since and will continue them. So we are conscious of the confusion to the extent it still exists. But I must say that when one considers we have undertaken a major reshuffling in responsibilities, with major divisions of ministries relocat-

ing, I think this has been done extraordinarily well.

I will speak to the matter of multiculturalism as first addressed by the member for Downsview and make reference to an observation of the member for Riverdale about the word "multiculturalism" not appearing in the bill at all. I do not know that I got all of the details correctly, but I think the member for Downsview said that multiculturalism was announced to the world by way of government policy about 10 years ago.

I assume the member is talking about the federal government's multiculturalism thrust of a decade or more ago when that program was announced. That program stated we can all be good Canadians while preserving our heritage and that we, as Canadians, were asked to share the richness of our different cultures. We come, as he said, nearly 10 years later to the failure of multiculturalism. He went on to say that until minorities are in decision-making positions, we have achieved nothing.

That leads me into some comments on the advisory committee. Let me go back to the word "multiculturalism" itself. It was announced as a government policy by the federal government 10 years ago or so, and our government responded to that, I guess, a few years later. I am on the horns of a bit of a dilemma here, because in the seven or eight weeks that I have been the Minister of Citizenship and Culture I have detected that the very word "multiculturalism" evokes some strong feelings in people.

I think where I have a philosophical problem is that governments may have created the notion of an approach to multiculturalism 10 or 11 years ago, but multiculturalism is part of this country, it is a reality.

I am a little disturbed when I hear the member for Downsview say that 10 years after the fact, multiculturalism has failed. Various governments' approaches to it may have been less than successful, but I think we have to accept that multiculturalism is the way it is. We can talk about words all day and night, and we have done this within the ministry, but it is pretty difficult when we get down to it to come up with a word that better expresses the facts of life in this country and this province than multiculturalism. I know that and I have no difficulty with it.

I know it is not in the bill, and I suspect the reason is that there have been people in our communities who for a variety of reasons have been given a negative feeling about what government people mean when they talk about

multiculturalism. The concept is as much central to Canada as the fact that in spring it is pleasant here and in February it is cold.

This is a multicultural community; that is the way it is. How governments and people like me use the word, how they treat the challenge, is probably what has given this real word some less than positive reception in the community.

I hear what the member for Downsview is saying, I am conscious of it, but I just want to make sure he is being critical of government's approach to the facts of life and is not in any way, shape or form saying that we should ignore these facts of life.

The last comment, that until minorities are in decision-making positions we have achieved nothing, is absolutely correct. I think that quite succinctly says what the task force of the Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism and Citizenship said. I received its first report in February, and I think most members have looked at it. It is not that long, and everybody should have a peek at it. The statistics are there, and nobody can quarrel with them.

In my judgement, we have not reflected the community as fairly, as adequately or as quickly as we should have. That is a priority area. I must candidly tell the House about the three steps I have initiated so far. I am going to need some guidance, advice, help or criticism in this area.

If one reads carefully the recommendations of this advisory committee, they make it quite clear that they do not want us or anybody to accept a quota system. They think the criteria for appointments now, which are largely regional and based on excellence, should stay intact. I agree with that. I hope they make a task force report like this every year. However, it is how one measures progress in this area that gets a little tricky, and I am not sure I know the exact answers.

I will tell members what we are going to do with the four or five recommendations. They will be discussed in the cabinet committee on social development a week from Thursday. Second in the sequence will be a fuller discussion in cabinet. The House should not hold me to this, but that would be very shortly afterwards. I hope all this takes place in the spring.

Also, I have asked for an opportunity in May to meet the committee that makes the actual appointments to the various boards, agencies and commissions. I do not know whether I will be in a position to make a report on how each of those three meetings went, but I see no reason why I could not.

I will frankly share the recommendations with my colleagues. We are going to speak to the fact that it has not been adequate, but how we improve it is a little bit tricky. We will quite properly have to be constantly measuring that.

12:40 p.m.

There is no mystery to how we improve it. It gets tricky because, as it is now, quite rightly and properly—and I just saw these about 10 days ago—there is a large inventory of names of people who are being considered for various appointments now. It is referred to as the inventory.

I saw these sheets. There is a name, an address, a postal code, the phone number and the name of the person who recommended the candidate. That is all there is. Quite properly, there is nothing on the sheet that says anything about the person's race or religion and so forth. I do not know of any reasonable person who thinks that should be altered.

Having said that, I say to the member for Oakwood as he smiles, how we are going to measure progress?

Mr. Grande: That's a naïve way of looking at it.

Mr. Mackenzie: Who do you think gave you the list?

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: The list had a lot of opposition members' names on it who had recommended people in various communities, as they quite properly should.

Mr. Grande: Do you mean that before the appointments are made nobody knows who those people are? Come on.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: There is no mystery to this. There are names there. There would be Joe Brown, address, postal code and phone number, and it might say Tony Grande in brackets after it.

Mr. Grande: They are picked at random?

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: It sure looked it to me.

Mr. McClellan: We know how sinister you are.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: The members over there spend too much time trying to figure out how sinister we are. We occasionally might make a little mistake or two, but sinister we ain't. I look for it. I have been here four and a half years. I have been looking for something sinister, and I have been looking for a good secret. If this government were any more open, it would be arrested for indecent exposure.

The member for Downsview also made some

comments under the broad category of multiculturalism about TVOntario's response to it and the number of programs. When I get the transcript, I will be interested to look at those numbers again. The member measured how many programs TVO had done which spoke to multiculturalism and he clearly implied more could be done in that area.

I had my first meeting with the TVOntario board about 10 days ago. It took about 60 minutes, and we must have spent 50 minutes discussing just that. I did not have those statistics. It was much more informal. The people on the board did not have an agenda. It was a loose meeting, just a luncheon meeting, and was the first opportunity I had to meet with them.

I raised that question, and the response was absolutely terrific. I know there is enthusiasm to do more in that area. I do not know whether we are going to measure that by the number of programs, but there is enthusiasm to do a great deal more in that area.

It really goes back to a view that is clearly at the heart of this ministry's mandate and is shared by the agencies of the ministry; that is, cultural sharing. What more intelligent vehicle is there to speak to this business of cultural sharing than TVO?

As an aside, I have been overwhelmed by the number of letters that come in praising the programming and the work generally at TVO and, related to that, the number that come in requesting expansion of that service into their own communities. This is not the time to go into the details of that. Obviously it is a priority, and the pressures are a good indication of the support the people in our province have for this agency which has a world-class reputation for educational programming.

The member for Downsview went from there to talk at some length about English and the heritage language programs, which made a point related back to TVO about our language programming. I want to make it as clear as I can that I see these as two quite important but distinct matters.

Should TVO accelerate the quantity of its multiculturalism programming? I think clearly the answer is yes. It does not logically follow that this means there should be programming in languages other than English and French. That is a fundamental point.

Mr. Di Santo: Why not?

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: Because if we believe in cultural sharing, if we believe in reaching as many people as we can, the markets in this real

province that we serve are going to be reached at a bigger level through programming in English and French than in any other language. Our responsibilities are to reach those markets and to share that message. There is no sense doing multiculturalism in education, to use that expression, to a narrow group when we can do it to a wider group.

There is no question that there is a market out there for programming in languages other than English and French, and MTV is testimony to that. But I think there is a fundamental difference between improving the number of programs devoted to multiculturalism and tying the language issue to that. I see these as distinct questions; each is important but distinct.

The member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley) asked about the continuing education cutbacks. In fact, as he pointed out, the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) and I have had some discussions about it. I read with care her statement made in the assembly 10 days ago.

Just to go back prior to the statement: We were immediately and primarily concerned in our ministry, after her program was announced, with activities that logically would fit with us but that might no longer be able to be held because there would be no money. Frankly, we were on standby, trying to measure the number of activities and trying to find how much money therefore would be required. Then we were going to worry about whether it was going to come from us or whether it was going to come from Education.

I think I am pretty current on this; we have worked hard to stay on top of this issue. The minister's statement, which I do not have in front of me, made it pretty clear that the ministry will continue to provide the funds to cover the cost of those programs organized in conjunction with folk arts councils. Her statement made that fairly clear, I think. But we are constantly looking at it; if we find that a program falls down between two ministries, it is our intention to pick it up.

I cannot give numbers and details yet, but the member knows that his particular community has been most alert to this. It certainly has been that area where most of the letters have come from.

Would we provide the funding if the program otherwise would die? We are convinced that no programs yet look as if they are going to be terminated. If they are, we will identify them throughout the province, and it would be a priority item for us to see that they carry on.

The member for Oakwood indicated that his caucus is voting against the bill. I think that is unfortunate for some of the reasons that I have mentioned.

He asks, what faith can we have in the preamble to a bill which is all airy-fairy, motherhood kind of stuff? Fine. I accept that. He goes right on, though, to talk about the need for some airy-fairy, motherhood statements in the form of a cultural policy. He feels very comfortable that the government of Quebec has a cultural policy, which I guess one can read. I do not know whether we have a paragraph that speaks to our cultural policy, but since he and I do not find that much comfort in those things, I do not know that it would matter.

Let me tell the member something about the real world outside the academic, philosophical, legalistic approach to cultural policies. I am talking about the 8.5 million people in Ontario. Does he know how to find out whether we have a good cultural policy in Ontario? He should just travel around a little bit. He should go into some of the local theatre groups. He should listen to some of the local musical groups. He should look at the classy, Ontario, home-grown talent that is out there, the number of art galleries, the growing number of theatres. He should look at the local museums, the number of heritage buildings and the kinds of letters I get from members all the time who find a bridge, a building or an old farm that they think qualifies for support. All of that is cultural. It is there. It is so real that we can hardly write the cheques to keep up with them.

Let me tell him one little thing. He might think that this is an unusual example for me to use. Let him think about this for half a second when we talk about the cultural muscle in Ontario. Does he remember the McMichael concerns of three or four months ago? Did the people care? Is there a member in this place who has not, at one time or another, for whatever reason, said publicly that he never got more phone calls in his life? That is the measure of the cultural policy in this province. People care about art, people care about dance, people care about theatre. Maybe some time when we find we have an hour off we might write up a cultural policy, and I will send it over to the member when we do.

The Half-Back program was mentioned in passing. I think it is probably the greatest single marketing concept I have ever heard of in my life. In the latter part of this year, we will announce a major new program. I would like to

change the word: Full-Back is what I would like to call it, but that gets kind of complicated; and I am just an amateur advertising guy, as a lot of politicians are.

12:50 p.m.

I think it is the single greatest marketing concept. It brings together what I was just talking about, the Canadian talent that is there in the fields of music, writing and dance, with a recognition that there are all kinds of small businesses out there—indeed, large firms too—that can give new focus to Canadian talent by doing that.

So there will be a program. I consider each of the three—was it 1978, 1979 and 1981?—where a total of six different products were marketed, to have been prudent experimentation. The numbers are all in, I think; it works. We will announce such a program later in the year, but I think it might take until the fall.

The member for Victoria-Haliburton (Mr. Eakins) asked about the Ontario Lottery Corp. Yes, it is with the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. Baetz); Wintario and the other lotteries are with me. The Ministry of Tourism and Recreation raises the funds through the Ontario Lottery Corp., and we spend it; but, believe me, he gets a ton back. That is basically how it works. The rationale for this is that we had the Ontario grants administration people within the ministry, the good people whom the member for Riverdale had referred to; they were intact, and it stays there.

There will still be the odd case where there is going to be some confusion, and we will speak to that if, as and when it surfaces, but by and large I think it has worked well.

I have heard the member for Victoria-Haliburton speak in the past, and I noticed in the transcripts of the estimates of this ministry in other years that he has probably been the single biggest fan of the Wintario program, the way it is working and the good work it does in the smaller communities. I appreciate his support. He has spoken to me a number of times about it already. His recommendation that we take a look at the dollar allocation in each of the regions to make sure that the larger are not gaining from the smaller is a good recommendation, and we will take a look at it.

My last comment, if I may: The member for Riverdale said that the Human Rights Code, and I guess he means further the Ontario Human Rights Commission, might logically fit under the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture; he also said there were some historical reasons why it

had been with the Ministry of Labour. I think he is disappointed that it was not stated in the bill, or certainly that it has not been announced, that the human rights commission would be under my ministry. This has been discussed at some length, and the discussions are still going on.

As I hear it, a very reasonable argument is being put forward by people that perhaps the human rights commission and the race relations commission might be with the Ministry of the Attorney General. This is being discussed now. The Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) and I have talked about it a number of times since the ministry change. The truth is that we have not yet had a chance to talk about it with the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay), but it is being considered.

I do not take anything away from the member for Riverdale's observations as to where it might fit, but we are getting representations from people outside the government that it might fit most effectively into the Ministry of the Attorney General.

I have no further comments. I had said at the outset that we would entertain a motion to include an annual report, and if the member for Downsview is prepared to make that, we would be happy to oblige.

The Acting Speaker: Mr. McCaffrey has moved second reading of Bill 36, An Act to establish the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture.

All those in favour say "aye."

All those in favour say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Motion agreed to.

Ordered for committee of the whole House.

House in committee of the whole.

MINISTRY OF CITIZENSHIP AND CULTURE ACT

Consideration of Bill 36, An Act to establish the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture.

Sections 1 to 4, inclusive, agreed to.

On section 5:

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Di Santo moves that section 5 of the bill be amended by adding thereto the following subsection:

"(2) The minister after the close of each year shall submit to the Lieutenant Governor in Council an annual report upon the affairs of the ministry and shall then lay the report before the

assembly if it is in session or, if not, at the next ensuing session."

Motion agreed to.

Section 5, as amended, agreed to.

Sections 6 to 17, inclusive, agreed to.

Bill 36, as amended, reported.

On motion by Ms. Fish, the committee of the whole House reported one bill with a certain amendment.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, there has been a slight change in the order for Monday. On Monday afternoon, we will be considering legislation but, rather than proceeding with Bill 41, An Act to establish the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, it has been agreed to start with Bill 38, An Act to establish the Ministry of Industry and Trade. When that bill is completed, we will carry on with Bill 41.

The House adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

APPENDIX

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE PAPER

MUNICIPAL ASSESSMENTS

14. Mr. Epp: Would the Minister of Revenue supply the following information:

1. How many residential building permits in excess of \$2,500 were reported to you in each ward of the city of Toronto in 1981?

2. How many residential properties for which building permits in excess of \$2,500 were issued, were reassessed in each ward of the city of Toronto in 1981?

3. How many of the reassessments made for residential properties, for which building permits have been issued in excess of \$2,500, have been appealed in each ward of the city of Toronto?

4. What is the total number of reassessments made for residential properties in each ward of the city of Toronto in 1981?

5. How many city of Toronto residents in each ward have appealed to the assessment review court?

6. What is the anticipated cost of relocating to the city of Toronto the 110 new assessors hired by the Ministry of Revenue to prepare a simulation of subsection 63(3)?

7. How long will it take for these 110 assessors to complete the simulation report? [Tabled March 17, 1982.]

See sessional paper 63.

SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

15. Mr. Mackenzie: Would the Minister of Labour notify the House of how many safety and health committees have been asked for and how many have actually been established under subsection 8(3) of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1978, and regulations for industrial

establishment, and where and when were these committees set up? [Tabled March 18, 1982.]

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: According to ministry records, six requests have been made under subsection 8(3) of the Occupational Health and Safety Act to establish joint health and safety committees. The requests have been dealt with as follows:

1. In February 1980, Local 67, Canadian Paper Workers' Union, Sault Ste. Marie, requested that a committee be set up between Abitibi Price and Local 67. Although there was a committee in place, the ministry's regional manager resolved existing differences through mediation.

2. In May 1980, Local 218 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees requested a committee for custodial and maintenance workers at the Durham Board of Education. This has been established.

3. In late 1980 and early 1981, the industrial health and safety branch issued orders concerning the formation of committees at six locations of Dupont Canada Inc. In March 1981, a special commissioner was appointed to inquire and report upon the situation. The report is expected shortly.

4. In September 1980, Local 1005 of the United Steelworkers of America, at Stelco, requested ministry assistance in establishing committees. In November 1980, a special commissioner was appointed and subsequently forwarded the report to the parties for implementation. Outstanding problems have been resolved through negotiations.

5. In October 1981, the United Brewers Warehousing Workers' Provincial Board requested the establishment of one board for all

Brewers' Warehousing Co. Ltd. warehousing operations in Toronto. The meetings among a ministry specialist, union and management are proceeding.

6. In December 1981, the Hamilton-Brantford Building and Construction Trades Council requested a committee for construction workers employed at Dofasco Inc. A series of meetings is being held to determine whether existing procedures are adequate.

TOWN CENTRE AT HORNEPAYNE

19. Mr. Wildman: Would the Minister of Northern Affairs provide the following information about the Hallmark Town Centre project at Hornepayne: (a) the original estimate of the total cost of the development made in 1976; (b) the final total capital cost of the development when construction was completed; (c) the total provincial share of the capital cost of construction; (d) the total area of retail space in the mall; (e) the total retail now rented; (f) the total estimated deficits for the operation of the public facilities at the centre in the first full year of operation; (g) the total maximum subsidies per year that the provincial government is committed to provide in order to avoid operation deficits for the public facilities at the centre; and (h) a description of any other financial guarantees to the private sector, the municipality and/or the board of education to which the provincial government is committed? [Tabled March 31, 1982.]

Hon. Mr. Bernier: (a) The initial cost estimate at the time of the announcement on January 5, 1977, was \$9 million. The final contract price in August 1978 was \$11.66 million.

(b) The project was completed within the budget of \$11.66 million.

(c) The total provincial share of the capital cost of construction was \$4,354,000.

(d) The total area of retail space in the mall is 39,772 square feet.

(e) The total retail area now rented is 32,296 square feet.

(f) The total estimated deficit for public facilities (library and recreation areas) is \$76,800 for the first full year of operation.

(g) As the centre is just initiating operations, it would be premature to fix a maximum guarantee.

(h) The province will provide the municipality with \$20,000 annually in terms of forgone tax revenues.

20. Mr. Wildman: Would the Minister of

Education inform the House of the projected date for occupancy of the new Hornepayne High School at the new Hallmark Town Centre, the estimated cost of such occupancy for the first full year, and the provisions that are in place to ensure that Hornepayne students who selected courses not available at the old school facility will receive the required total number of hours of instruction in these courses at the new school before the end of the school year to qualify for their credits in these courses? [Tabled March 31, 1982.]

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The school board made applications to the Ontario Municipal Board for approval to enter into a lease with the developers of the centre. Approval was granted on March 29, 1982. The school board signed the lease with the developer on April 5, 1982, and expects to move into the school as soon as it is convenient for them to do so.

The annual cost of such occupancy is not known as yet but is estimated to be about \$48,000 per year, all of which is an expenditure recognized for grant purposes. This amount includes the shared costs related to the use of the recreational area and the library.

The educational program will not change from that introduced in September 1981 except for the use of the recreational area and the library. The board assures me that the educational program to be introduced in September 1982 will make full use of the new additional facilities in the school that were not available in the former building.

21. Mr. Wildman: Would the Solicitor General inform the House of: (a) the total floor area of the old Ontario Provincial Police facility at Hornepayne; (b) the total floor area of the new OPP office and lockup facility at the new Hallmark Centre; (c) the steps that have been taken to rectify the inadequate space and entry into the cruiser garage; (d) the procedures that have been developed to avoid injuries that might be associated with taking prisoners up the flight of stairs to the lockup; (e) the total estimated cost of occupancy of the new facility for the first full year; and (f) the total cost for the last full year of occupancy of the old OPP facility in Hornepayne? [Tabled March 31, 1982.]

Hon. G. W. Taylor: (a) The total floor area of the old Ontario Provincial Police detachment is 1,169 square feet. (Total floor area of facility is 2,693 square feet, which includes the OPP residence component.)

(b) The total floor area of the new facility is 2,321 square feet.

(c) The lessor, Halmark Hotels Ltd., will be asked if it is feasible to increase garage width and door headroom clearance by minor structural alterations.

(d) The installation of an elevator or escalator as a supplementary access to the detachment is to be examined. The lessor, Hallmark Hotels Ltd., will be invited to carry out a design study.

Supplementary data: At the time of design and construction of the development, the nearest elevator maintenance service centre was Toronto. Service is now available out of Sault Ste. Marie.

(e) The total estimated cost of the new facility for the first full year is \$46,405.56.

(f) For the year April 1981 to March 1982, the old OPP facility cost was \$14,700.

22. Mr. Wildman: Would the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations inform the House of: (a) the total floor area of the old Liquor Control Board of Ontario retail store in Hornepayne; (b) the total floor area of the LCBO retail store in the Hallmark Town Centre; (c) the total estimated cost of occupancy of the new store in the mall; and (d) the total cost for the last year of occupancy in the old store, which is now vacant? [Tabled March 31, 1982.]

Hon. Mr. Elgie: (a) Total floor area of the old liquor control board retail store in Hornepayne was 3,636 square feet.

(b) Total floor area of the new liquor control board retail store in the Hallmark Town Centre is 3,635 square feet.

(c) Total estimated cost of occupancy of the new store in the mall is \$28,901.26 including \$3,464.06 business tax.

(d) The total cost for the last full year of occupancy of the old store which is now vacant was \$1,689.91—realty business tax. (Store was board owned.)

23. Mr. Wildman: Would the Minister of Government Services inform the House of his progress in finding alternative uses for the old Ontario Provincial Police station and the old Liquor Control Board of Ontario retail store in Hornepayne? [Tabled March 31, 1982.]

Hon. Mr. Elgie: The old Liquor Control Board of Ontario store in Hornepayne is owned by the board. The building is currently leased to Derek Flynn until February 29, 1984, during which time the lessee has the option to purchase the property. Mr. Flynn is operating a repair shop for snowmobiles.

Hon. Mr. Wiseman: The old Ontario Provincial Police station, which is government-owned, is divided into two sections. One section of the building is the police detachment office and the other section is an OPP staff residence.

Subject to Management Board approval, it is proposed that the detachment office section of the building be altered to an additional residence which is required for OPP staff.

ELECTRICITY REVENUES

52. Mr. Haggerty: Would the Minister of Energy inform the House of: (a) the average revenue received by Ontario Hydro from residential, industrial and farm customers per kilowatt-hour of electricity sold; (b) the average revenue to be received by Ontario Hydro from General Public Utilities of New Jersey per kilowatt-hour of electricity to be sold through the Lake Erie cable; and (c) the average revenue per kilowatt-hour of electricity sold by General Public Utilities to their residential and farm customers? [Tabled April 6, 1982.]

Hon. Mr. Welch: (a) Statistics related to the average revenue received by Ontario Hydro from residential, industrial and farm customers per kilowatt-hour of electricity sold are not yet available for 1981.

The information for 1980, however, is as follows: residential, 4.023 cents per kWh; farm, 3.736 cents per kWh; general (under 5,000 kW), 3.168 cents per kWh; direct industrial (over 5,000 kW), 2.076 cents per kWh.

(b) The average revenue to be received by Ontario Hydro from General Public Utilities of New Jersey per kilowatt-hour of electricity to be sold through the Lake Erie cable was forecast and included in Ontario Hydro's submission to the National Energy Board. The revenue was forecast to increase from 7.2 cents per kilowatt hour in 1985 to 16.8 cents per kilowatt-hour in 1996.

(c) Statistics from General Public Utilities do not provide any breakdown for farm customers. The average revenue per kilowatt-hour of electricity sold by General Public Utilities to residential customers in 1981 was 7.4 cents per kilowatt-hour.

CARBONATED SOFT DRINKS

54. Mr. Elston: Would the Minister of the Environment provide the 1981 Neilson data, on a monthly basis, specifying the percentage market share for carbonated soft drinks sold in cans and refillable/returnable containers? [Tabled April 7, 1982.]

Hon. Mr. Norton: The 1981 Neilson data specifying the percentage market share for

	D/J	F/M	A/M	J/J	A/S	O/N
Refillable bottles.	65.0	67.9	57.3	56.0	63.8	61.0
Nonrefillable bottles.	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.5
Cans.	34.5	31.8	42.5	43.8	36.4	38.4

EXPERIMENTAL PLANT
FOR RESOURCE RECOVERY

55. Mr. Elston: Would the Minister of the Environment provide the following information on the experimental resource recovery plant in Downsview for the year 1981: (1) average monthly tonnage figures for the amount of garbage received at the plant; (2) average monthly tonnage figures for each of the materials recovered (i.e. corrugated paper, fine paper, newspaper, metal, glass); and (3) disposition and average monthly tonnage figures for garbage received at the plant but not recovered? [Tabled April 7, 1982.]

Hon. Mr. Norton: The experimental plant for resource recovery operated during the last 10 months of 1981; the plant was out of operation during January and February 1981 to permit major repairs to the waste receiving building floor.

The plant operated throughout the year at less than capacity because of a shortage of waste received at the facility. This situation is changing this year following negotiations with Metropolitan Toronto to phase out the Dufferin incinerator located adjacent to the plant. The Dufferin incinerator closure, to be completed by July 1982, will result in an additional 500 metric tons per month of waste being directed to the experimental plant.

As requested for the year 1981:

- 1. The average monthly tonnage processed at the plant was 2,550 metric tons.
- 2. The average monthly tonnage for recovered materials was 150 metric tons of corrugated cardboard, 130 metric tons of ferrous metal, 350 metric tons of compost and 1,000 metric tons of refuse-derived fuel of which 50 metric tons per month during the winter months was burned in the plant's modular incinerator to produce hot water for plant heating.
- The plant also baled a monthly average of 200 metric tons of source-separated waste newspaper for Metropolitan Toronto to improve the marketability of this material. Fine paper and glass are not recovered from the solid waste received at the plant.
- 3. The plant facilities include a transfer

carbonated soft drinks sold in cans and in refillable/returnable containers is as follows:

station through which a monthly average of 6,500 metric tons was handled for direct haul to Metropolitan Toronto landfill sites.

USE OF GROUND WATER

58. Mr. Elston: Would the Minister of the Environment provide data indicating the number of Ontario families and the percentage of Ontario families who use ground-water supplies for drinking water? [Tabled April 7, 1982.]

Hon. Mr. Norton: Twenty-seven per cent of the population of Ontario (2.26 million persons) use ground water as the source of their water supplies. Of this percentage, 56 per cent (1.27 million persons) are on individual, private wells. Allowing for 2.7 persons per household, this would mean that of the 3.14 million households in Ontario, about 848,000 households use ground water as a source of water supply, of which 470,000 households rely on individual wells.

ACID RAIN

59. Mr. Elston: Would the Minister of the Environment provide estimates, on an annual basis, of the economic impact of acidic precipitation on the tourism industry in Ontario, the agricultural industry in Ontario, the forestry industry in Ontario, as well as costs estimates to the Ontario health system for increased incidence of respiratory-related diseases caused by acid gas emissions? [Tabled April 7, 1982.]

Hon. Mr. Norton: The ministry initiated three socioeconomic studies in 1980-81 to develop information on the value of acid-rain-related effects. Two of these studies focus on three of the sectors in question—tourism, agriculture and forestry, but not on health.

Since much of the economic analysis in these areas is pioneering, and scientific data on dose-response are still being generated, a primary focus of the studies has been on the development of methodology, i.e., establishing the links between acid deposition and its effects on the resource, and the linkage between resource change and behavioural responses of individuals.

For example, one must discern whether changes in tourism and recreation are a response to acid

deposition effects, to other pollutants, or to overall economic conditions. The development of methodology is therefore of great importance, and rough estimates of the value of effects are provided by using the best available data. Because of data limitations, the estimates at this time are subject to a great degree of uncertainty.

Preliminary estimates, using available data, have been developed thus far, only for tourism and recreation. These estimates are used to test the methodology and are subject to a high degree of uncertainty. As more and better data become available, re-estimates will be made.

At this time, the study of forestry and agricultural effects is incomplete. It is, however, the intention of the ministry to provide a synthesis document outlining the methodological approaches. The studies are interrelated, and the focus and limitations of each must be put into the perspective of the overall program of socioeconomic research in this area. This document will also incorporate comments solicited during the peer review of the studies. This work is now under way for the tourism study, and will be initiated for the other studies shortly. It is therefore premature to release preliminary estimates which are subject to much uncertainty and without the context of the assumptions and limitations of the methodology.

The synthesis document should be available for public distribution by fall 1982.

As yet, no work has been undertaken by the ministry on the health costs of acid gas emissions. In its work program for 1982-83, the ministry plans to initiate a study of health effects related to acid deposition as distinct from ambient air concentrations of sulphur and nitrogen oxides.

60. Mr. Elston: Would the Ministry of the Environment table in this House the most recent version of the MOE report, Acid Sensitivity Survey of Lakes in Ontario. [Tabled April 7, 1982.]

See sessional paper 68.

61. Mr. Elston: Would the Minister of the Environment table the following reports in this House: (1) a tourism and recreation study by Curries, Coopers and Lybrand; (2) an amenity value survey study by ARA Consultants; and (3) a financial value study by Victor and Burrell? [Tabled April 7, 1982.]

Hon. Mr. Norton: These three studies, cited by Mr. Elston, were initiated by the ministry during 1980-81 to provide methodologies to determine the economic value of acid deposition effects in Ontario. Of the three studies, only the

tourism study has been received in its final form. The other two are very near completion.

The three studies are closely interrelated, and should be taken together to provide a proper perspective of the socioeconomic dimensions of acid deposition effects. To this end, the ministry is currently developing a document which will synthesize the methodological development and put each study into perspective.

The primary role of these studies has been to develop methodologies. Preliminary estimates of the economic value of effects have been made. It must be stressed that these are subject to assumptions and limitations of the models developed, and importantly, the lack of good data. The work has, however, also indicated where further research is a high priority to fill information and data gaps.

As these studies are received in final draft form, they are to be circulated for peer review among prominent colleagues involved in similar socioeconomic and physical science work. As much of the socioeconomic analysis is novel, this peer review process is essential to ensure the quality and reliability of the findings. The synthesis document will therefore have the added advantage of the incorporated comments of the peer review and those of the ministry staff. Until these reviews are complete, it would be premature to release the studies.

The synthesis document should be available by early fall 1982 and will be distributed immediately.

PLANT EMISSIONS

62. Mr. Elston: Would the Minister of the Environment provide data of emissions of SO₂ from Inco's Copper Cliff complex and from Inco's iron ore recovery plant (in Copper Cliff), for the periods October 1, 1981, to December 31, 1981, and from January 1, 1982, to March 31, 1982, in tons per working day? [Tabled April 7, 1982.]

Hon. Mr. Norton: The daily SO₂ emissions from Inco's Copper Cliff smelter complex and from Inco's iron ore recovery plant complex are required—by the ministry's control order and regulations—to be reported at the end of each calendar quarter for the preceding 12-month period.

The regulation for the smelter requires compliance with an SO₂ emission rate of 2,500 short tons per working day, and the control order requires compliance with an emission rate of 250 short tons per working day for the iron ore recovery plant complex. Both of these requirements are based on a computation of the

emission rates for the preceding 12-month period ending at the end of each quarter.

Hence, for the period January 1, 1981, to December 31, 1981, SO₂ emission rates for the Copper Cliff smelter complex and the iron ore recovery plant complex were 2,155 and 209 short tons per working day respectively, such that compliance with the ministry regulations and control order has been achieved.

It should be noted that up to the end of the second quarter 1981, these emissions were required to be calculated and reported on a quarterly basis, i.e., at the end of each quarter for the previous quarter.

The January 1, 1981, to March 31, 1982, emission rates are not required to be reported until May 15, 1982—45 working days after the end of the quarter—and are therefore not yet available.

63. Mr. Elston: Would the Minister of the Environment provide data on emissions of SO₂ and NO_x in metric tons per year for the years 1979, 1980 and 1981 for the following Ontario Hydro plants: Lambton, Nanticoke, Lakeview, R. L. Hearn and J. C. Keith? [Tabled April 7, 1982.]

Hon. Mr. Norton: Ontario Hydro thermal power plants summary of estimated SO₂ and NO_x emissions for the years 1979 to 1981:

Estimates of SO₂ emissions (metric tons)

Station	1979	1980	1981
Lambton.	160,000	150,000	154,000
Nanticoke.	155,000	144,000	181,000
Lakeview.	91,300	75,100	63,200
R. L. Hearn	10,200	16,300	5,540
J. C. Keith.	31	850	3,960

Estimates of NO_x emissions* (metric tons)

Station	1979	1980	1981
Lambton.	19,780	19,860	19,933
Nanticoke.	44,007	55,660	64,400
Lakeview.	21,160	19,780	18,400
R. L. Hearn	6,578	4,661	1,533
J. C. Keith.	15	15	1,058

*NO_x expressed as NO₂.

COST OF NEWSPAPER

65. Mr. Elston: Would the Minister of the Environment provide: (1) the cost of production of the MOE Legacy newspaper during fiscal 1981-82; (2) the cost of radio advertising during fiscal 1981-82; and (3) the cost of television advertising during fiscal 1981-82? [Tabled April 7, 1982.]

Hon. Mr. Norton: 1. The cost of production for the four editions of Legacy during 1981-82 was: printing and typesetting, \$6,932; mailing and distribution, \$2,992; writing services, \$240; total, \$10,165.

2. and 3. The Ministry of the Environment did not undertake any radio or TV advertising during 1981-82.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROSECUTIONS

66. Mr. Elston: Would the Minister of the Environment provide: (1) a list of all prosecutions undertaken by the MOE during fiscal 1981-82; (2) indications for each case of the success or failure; and (3) the total dollar value of the fine awarded in each successful case? [Tabled April 7, 1982.]

See sessional paper 69.

EXPERIENCE '82

67. Mr. Elston: Would the Minister of the Environment provide a list of all expected Experience '82 programs, a description of each, the number of students to be employed in each, and the total budget for each project? [Tabled April 7, 1982.]

See sessional paper 70.

AIR POLLUTION INDEX

68. Mr. Elston: Would the Minister of the Environment document for the year 1981: (1) the number of occasions the Ontario air pollution index reached or surpassed 32; (2) in what cities and on what dates did these events occur; and (3) what particular industries in each city were forced to curtail their industrial activities and for how long? [Tabled April 7, 1982.]

See sessional paper 71.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT EXEMPTIONS

69. Mr. Elston: Would the Minister of the Environment provide a list, year by year, since the Environmental Assessment Act was proclaimed, of all projects: (1) exempted from the act by order made under section 30 and filed as regulations prior to March 31, 1982; (2) exempted from the act by regulation made under section 41 and filed prior to March 31, 1982, and (3) exempted from the act which were contained in O. Reg. 836/76. [Tabled April 7, 1982.]

See sessional paper 74.

MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS

71. Mr. Epp: Would the Minister of Municipi-

pal Affairs and Housing provide a one-page list of municipal councillors for each municipality in Ontario, including cities, towns, villages, townships, regional municipalities, district municipalities and counties? [Tabled April 7, 1982.]

Hon. Mr. Bennett: No consolidated list containing the names of municipal councillors for each municipality in Ontario is maintained by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

A list of municipal councillors for any individual municipality is available from the provincial-municipal affairs secretariat of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Third Floor, Mowat Block, Queen's Park, (965-6989).

SECURICOR AT OCA

72. Mr. Foulds: Can the Minister of Colleges and Universities inform the House as to who decided to engage the services of Securicor Investigation and Security Ltd. for the Ontario College of Art beginning on March 26, and can the minister inform the House as to how much money is being paid to Securicor? How much has it cost OCA to terminate its contract with Securicor? [Tabled April 7, 1982.]

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The decision to engage the services of Securicor Investigation and Security Ltd. was made by the management of the Ontario College of Art. Securicor was retained from March 26, 1982, to April 6, 1982, for a total cost of \$6,615, which represented the cost of the total hours worked by Securicor personnel. No additional payment was made to Securicor for the termination of the contract.

TVONTARIO

73. Mr. Di Santo: Will the Minister of Culture and Recreation table the following information:

1. What financial support will TVOntario receive from the province in the current year compared to last year?

2. What is the financial goal of the fund-raising campaign undertaken by TVOntario?

3. Has TVOntario been authorized by the ministry to raise funds among the public?

4. Is TVOntario planning any new programs? If yes, what are the programs planned?

5. Is TVOntario planning new multicultural programs? If yes, what are the programs planned?

6. Will TVOntario be authorized to initiate multicultural programs in languages other than English or French? [Tabled April 7, 1982.]

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: 1. In fiscal year 1982-83, TVOntario will receive \$26,213,000 in base

operating grants from the province of Ontario as compared to \$23,501,400 in fiscal year 1981-82.

2. The financial goal of TVOntario's public membership campaign in 1982 is \$200,000.

3. In 1979, an external consultant's report recommended that TVOntario diversify its funding sources. These recommendations, which included a public membership campaign, were approved by the board of directors of TVOntario and endorsed by the then Minister of Culture and Recreation (Mr. Baetz). The Ministry of Citizenship and Culture continues to support TVOntario in these efforts.

4. TVOntario is planning new programs. However, TVOntario's internal budget allocation process for the coming year is not yet complete and final program plans are not yet available.

5. TVOntario has a long history of reflecting multicultural issues and concerns in its programming and will continue to do so. However, since the internal budget allocation process is not yet complete, final program plans are not yet available.

6. TVOntario currently broadcasts in English and French only. French-language broadcasts make up 17 per cent of the schedule, concentrated mainly on Sunday from noon until sign-off. There are no plans at the present time to initiate broadcasts in languages other than English and French. Instead, TVO attempts to share the culture and diversity of Ontario with all Ontarians through programming which reflects all aspects of Ontario society.

FEDERAL EPF TRANSFERS

74. Mr. T. P. Reid: Will the Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics supply the following information: What was the cash, taxpoint equivalent and revenue guarantee value of federal EPF transfers for the fiscal years 1976-77 to 1981-82 inclusive? [Tabled April 8, 1982.]

See sessional paper 64.

INDUSTRY AND TRADE FIELD STAFF

75. Mr. Sweeney: Will the Minister of Industry and Trade provide a list of companies which his ministry's "Swat team" is currently investigating, the current number of staff assigned to the Swat team and the estimated travel costs of the Swat team to date? [Tabled April 8, 1982.]

Hon. Mr. Walker: My ministry field staff, as well as staff in Queen's Park, must work with their clients on the basis of complete confidentiality, otherwise the companies would be unwill-

ing to disclose their plans or any particular difficulties they are currently facing. I might add that the federal Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce follows the same practice. For this reason, we cannot disclose the names of any of the clients, especially those with which the team is working in southwestern Ontario.

Over the past five weeks the team has been involved with 13 companies, and in some instances involvement may continue over as long as six months. I want to emphasize that although I have mentioned my particular interest in the teamwork approach we are taking in southwestern Ontario, the entire field staff is heavily involved in advising and working with companies which are experiencing difficulties during the current downturn in business.

The team approach in southwestern Ontario involves a field consultant plus a financial adviser from the Ontario Development Corp., together with assistance from the federal Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce and the National Research Council. The degree of involvement of these various specialists will vary with the nature of the particular case. In addition, I should add that my director for the southwestern Ontario region has taken a very strong interest in advising and guiding the team.

We do not break out the specific travel or other costs for the team from our operating expenses. Again, let me emphasize the entire field force is increasingly involved in situations involving firms experiencing financial difficulties of various types.

FARM ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

76. Mr. Riddell: Would the Minister of Agriculture and Food provide the following information on the farm adjustment assistance program:

1. How many applications for assistance have been approved to date?
2. How much provincial assistance has been committed so far?
3. How many applications have been refused assistance?
4. How many applications have been returned because of lack of information on the application?
5. How long a delay is there from when the farmer applies for assistance at the bank until a decision is made by the decision committee?
6. How many times has the decision committee met, and how much have the chairman and

other members of the decision committee been paid so far? [Tabled April 13, 1982.]

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: 1. Number of applications approved: 185.

2. Amount of provincial assistance committed: option A—interest deferment guarantee, \$58,000; option B—total amount of credit eligible for interest rebate, \$39,849,979; option C—authorized additional operating credit guaranteed, \$4,071,238.

3. Number of applications refused: one.

4. Number of applications where decision has been deferred by the provincial decision committee, pending further information: 35.

5. (a) Average time from filing application with lender until decision is made by the provincial decision committee: four weeks. (b) Average time from when recommendation submitted by local case committee to provincial decision committee until decision rendered: two weeks.

6. (a) Number of provincial decision committee meetings held: 13. (b) Total amount paid to chairman and members of the provincial decision committee (includes travel and accommodation expenses and fees—paid as of April 19): \$22,470.71.

Unless otherwise noted, information is current to Friday, April 16.

WASTE DISPOSAL AT LANDFILL SITES

82. Mr. Elston: Would the Minister of the Environment provide data on the total quantities, and quantities by type of waste—with type of waste specified according to Classification Guideline for Hauled Liquid Industrial Waste, December 1978, and Interim Classification of Hazardous Waste—for the period August 1, 1981, to March 31, 1982, at the following Ontario landfill sites: (1) city of Barrie; (2) township of Hamilton; (3) Arnprior-township of McNab; (4) city of Brantford; (5) city of Paris; (6) city of Guelph; (7) Tricil, Corunna; and (8) city of Welland. [Tabled April 13, 1982.]

See sessional paper 72.

INTERIM ANSWERS

24 to 26. Mr. Mackenzie: Hon. Mr. Ramsay—Because of the time required to gather information for the above question, an answer will be tabled in the House on or about Thursday, April 29, 1982.

53. Mr. Elston: Hon. Mr. Norton—Additional time will be required in order for us to provide an answer to the above question. The response should be available on or about May 3, 1982.

56. Mr. Elston: Hon. Mr. Norton—Additional time will be required in order for us to provide an answer to the above question. The response should be available on or about May 4, 1982.

57. Mr. Elston: Hon. Mr. Grossman—An answer cannot be prepared within the specified time frame. I anticipate that I will be able to table a response on or about May 7, 1982.

64. Mr. Elston: Hon. Mr. Norton—Additional time will be required in order for us to provide an answer to the above question. The response should be available on or about April 29, 1982.

70. Mr. Elston: Hon. Mr. Norton—Additional time will be required in order for us to provide an answer to the above question. The response will be available on or about May 7, 1982.

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 Cousens, D., Deputy Chairman and Acting Speaker (York Centre PC)
 Cureatz, S. L., Deputy Speaker and Chairman (Durham East PC)
 Davis, Hon. W. G., Premier (Brampton PC)
 Di Santo, O. (Downsview NDP)
 Drea, Hon. F., Minister of Community and Social Services (Scarborough Centre PC)
 Eakins, J. F. (Victoria-Haliburton L)
 Elgie, Hon. R. G., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (York East PC)
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